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**FAMILY LITERACY GUIDES & ACTIVITIES
THIRD GRADE**

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Hello Families,

We're so excited to partner with you as your child learns to read!

Learning to read is one of the most important skills your child will ever build. It helps them succeed in school and in life. **Reading is a step-by-step journey, and you're your child's first and most important teacher.**

This packet is filled with simple, fun activities you can do at home using materials you already have. Our goal is to make learning feel like play. When children read, write, talk, and play, they grow stronger every day.

You may already be doing many of these things and that's wonderful! These guides will give you even more ideas to keep the fun going.

At the beginning of each grade section, you'll see a guide that shares what students are learning in school. This helps us all work toward the same goals. After the guide, you'll find easy activities to try at home. As you do them, remember to talk with your child. Ask questions. Let them explain their thinking. Sometimes, let your child be the teacher!

You'll also see teacher tips and the learning standards connected to each activity. This shows how your fun time together is building important skills.

Most of all, enjoy this time. Laugh, play, and learn together. When reading feels joyful, children grow into confident readers.

Please visit ReadWithMeNV.com or follow us @ReadWithMeNV on Instagram and Facebook for more helpful resources and fun learning ideas. You can also scan the QR code for quick access.

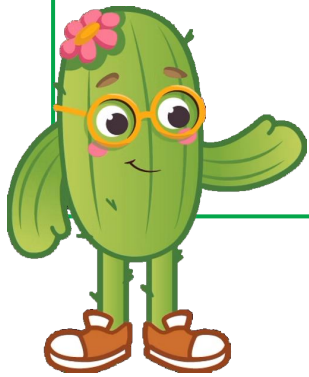
We're so glad to be on this journey with you!

With gratitude,
L3 Coalition





THIRD GRADE GUIDE & ACTIVITIES



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FAMILY LITERACY GUIDE

Third Grade



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What should my child know and be able to do by the end of 3rd grade?

LANGUAGE

- Learn and accurately use a variety of new words, including academic and topic-specific vocabulary (e.g. denominator, ecosystem).
- Engage in conversations with adults and peers about different topics and texts. Give clear explanations and evidence for their ideas and build on others' ideas.

READING

3rd graders should show these skills with books that they read independently.

- Read most words, including words with multiple syllables, prefixes (e.g. re-, un-) and suffixes (e.g. -able, -tion).
- Accurately read grade-level texts smoothly and with expression.
- Ask and answer questions about texts, using details and examples from the text to explain answers. (e.g. I know ___ because the book said ___.)
- Determine the main idea in a text and explain how important details support the main idea.

WRITING

- Write organized paragraphs and short essays for different purposes, including telling a story, supporting an opinion, or giving information. Include relevant details, examples, and information.
- Write complete simple and expanded sentences using mostly correct spelling and grammar.
- Strengthen writing by planning, editing, and revising.

Explore more activities to support your child at ReadwithMeNV.com!



How can I support my child's literacy learning?

All literacy activities can be done in your home language!

Talk with your child using big words, sentences, and ideas. Engage in conversations as much as you can.

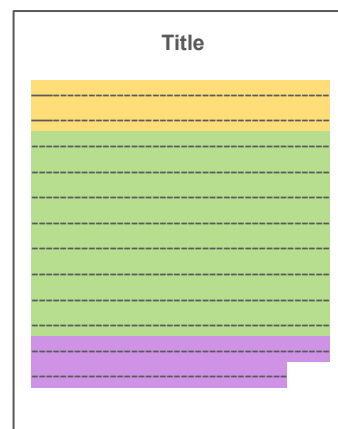
Read 20 minutes per day. 3rd graders should read mostly independently, but benefit from talking to an adult about what they read and reading out loud to adults or younger children.

Chapter book series are a great way to get your child interested in reading.



Informational books help your child gain knowledge and vocabulary.

Encourage your child to **write** for different purposes. Help them organize and extend their ideas.



- An **introduction** to the topic and purpose.
- Multiple **examples, reasons, or details** that support the purpose.
- A short **conclusion**.

CHARACTER DETECTIVE

Use clues from the story to describe a character.

Grade Range: 2nd - 4th Grade

Time Required: 10-20 minutes
Challenge: 30 minutes



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OVERVIEW:

Third graders are expected to describe characters using evidence from the text. This activity will help them practice.

MATERIALS:

- A book your child is reading or a story you read together
- Optional: paper and pencil

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Ask your child to choose a character from the story.**

2. **Have them describe the character using a character trait.** (See examples.)

3. **Ask your child questions for evidence.**

- “How do you know they are _____?”
- “What in the story makes you think that?”
- “Where is the proof in the story?”

4. **Encourage them to find that evidence.**
They can point to the evidence, say the page number, and/or reread that part.

5. **Ask them to connect that evidence to their description.**

- “How does that evidence prove they are _____?”
- “How does that part of the story show they are _____?”

6. **Extra challenge: Have your child write a short paragraph.**

In (Story Title), (Character's Name) is (trait). It says on (page/paragraph #), “(evidence from story)”. This shows they are (trait) because (explanation). Therefore, (character) is (trait).



Learning Goals (Standards Aligned)

- Describe characters and explain how actions contribute to events.
- Refer to text details when explaining ideas.

Why This Helps

Using evidence strengthens comprehension and helps students grow as readers.

Tips For Families

- If your child says “He’s nice,” ask “How do you know?”
- Encourage complete sentences when explaining.

MIND MOVIES

Turn reading into a “mental movie.”

Grade Range: 2nd - 4th Grade

Time Required: 15-30 minutes



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OVERVIEW:

Readers strengthen comprehension by visualizing what they read *and* explaining their thinking using evidence from the text. In this activity, create a “mind movie” and support with examples from the book.

MATERIALS:

- Any fiction or nonfiction book at your child’s reading level
- Optional: paper and pencil

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Choose a descriptive passage or story.

Select a page, paragraph, or short story that describes a place, character, event, or important moment.

2. Read the passage aloud together.

You can take turns reading, have your child read it, or you can read it.

3. Reread the passage while your child closes their eyes and creates a “mind movie.”

Have your child picture what’s happening as you read.

(Fun Challenge: Have them draw it out afterward!)

4. Use the five senses and emotion:

- What do you see?
- What do you hear?
- What might you smell?
- What might you taste?
- What can you touch/feel?
- What mood or emotions do you feel?

5. Ask for evidence. (Challenge: Write it out.)

- “How do you know? What words in the text helped you picture that?”
- “Can you point to the part of the text that gave you that idea?”



Learning Goals (Standards Aligned)

- Ask and answer detailed questions about a text.
- Use evidence from the text to explain ideas.
- Engage in thoughtful conversations about books.

Why This Helps

This builds deeper comprehension by teaching children to visualize and support their thinking with proof from the text.

Tips For Families

- Make it fun!
- If your child gets stuck, do your own example.
- Different answers are okay, as long as they can point to the text.

WRITE A STAR SUMMARY

Summarize clearly and briefly.

Grade Range: 3rd - 4th Grade

Time Required: 15-30 minutes



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OVERVIEW:

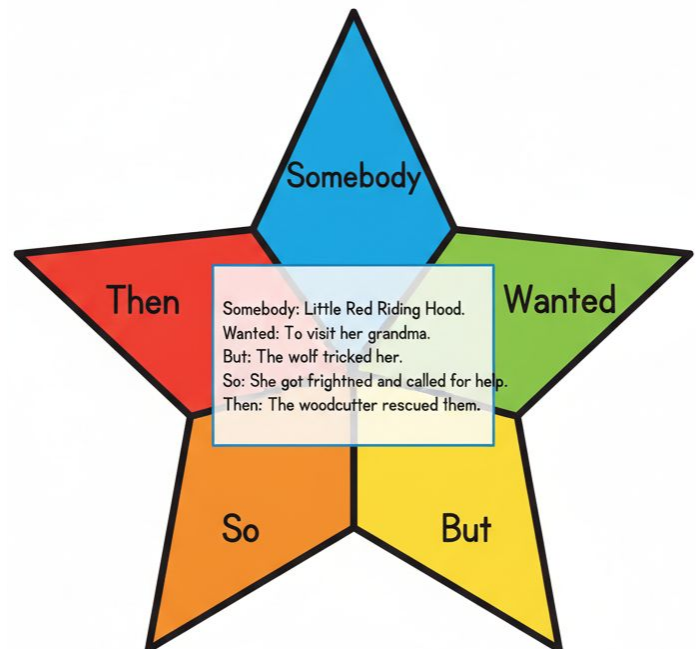
In the middle of elementary school, students should summarize. They move beyond retelling and do not share every detail, but explain the most important parts related to the main idea.

MATERIALS:

- Any story (this could also be a TV show)
- Paper and pencil (or any writing surface and utensil)

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **After reading or watching, ask “What was this mostly about?”**
Discuss the text or TV show with your child.
2. **Challenge your child to explain the whole story/show in 5 sentences.**
What is most important for someone to know about it?
3. **Have your child write the summary.**
Write in paragraph format using complete sentences.
4. **Help them include:**
 - **Somebody:** Who was it about?
 - **Wanted:** What did they want?
 - **But:** What was the problem?
 - **So:** What did they do?
 - **Then:** How did it end?
What did they learn?



Learning Goals (Standards Aligned)

- Determine main idea.
- Summarize key details.
- Organize ideas clearly.

Why This Helps

Summarizing strengthens comprehension and prepares students for upper-grade reading demands.

Tips For Families

- If they include too many details, ask:
“Is that important to the whole story?”
- Keep it short. That’s the challenge!

WRITE A REVIEW

Write a short opinion paragraph about anything.

Grade Range: 3rd - 5th Grade

Time Required: 20-30 minutes



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OVERVIEW:

Students are expected to write opinion pieces that include reasons and supporting details. This is a fun way to get practice!

MATERIALS:

- Paper and pencil (or any writing surface and utensil)

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Have a new adventure with your child.

This could be a park you've never been to, try a new food, visit the library, look at art, observe a construction site, or play a new game.

2. After the adventure, ask your child:

“Would you recommend ____ to a friend?”

“Why or why not?”

Discuss the experience with your child.

3. Have your child write their opinion.

- **Start with an opinion statement:** I would recommend/not recommend (name of activity/adventure).
- **Give 3 reasons why in complete sentences.**
Encourage using transitions like Also, ... Additionally, ... Furthermore, ...
- **Add a closing sentence that restates their opinion:** Therefore, you should/should not (word for emphasis) (name of activity/adventure).

4. Reread what they wrote and check for capitalization and punctuation.

Does every sentence start with a capital letter?

Does every sentence end with punctuation?



Learning Goals (Standards Aligned)

- Write opinion pieces with reasons.
- Use linking and transition words.
- Provide a concluding statement.

Why This Helps

Opinion writing builds reasoning and organization skills. It also requires students to reflect.

Tips For Families

- Encourage specific reasons, not just “It was good.”
- Help them expand ideas by asking “Tell me more.”
- Spelling mistakes are okay; focus on ideas first.

TRIVIA CHALLENGE

A learning game for the whole family.

Grade Range: 2nd - 5th Grade

Time Required: 20+ minutes



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OVERVIEW:

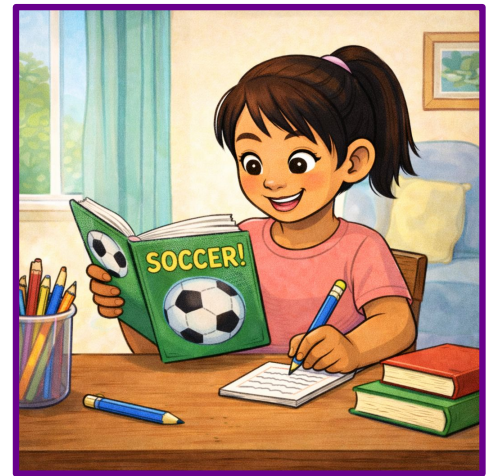
Your child will create trivia questions based on information that they read.

MATERIALS:

- An informational book or a website with information
- Index cards or small pieces of paper

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Choose an informational book OR look up an informational website.**
[Kids.britannica.com](https://kids.britannica.com) is a kid-friendly website where your child can look up any topic that they are interested in!
- 2. Read and write down facts.**
On each card or paper, write down a fact from the text.
Example: Lionel Messi was born in Argentina.
- 3. Turn facts from the text into trivia questions.**
Reread the fact. For each fact, create a matching question. Example: In what country was soccer player Lionel Messi born?
- 4. Play trivia games!**
You can play with the questions in different ways:
 - Quiz your child on what they read.
 - Have your child quiz you or other people.
 - Have a contest between family members to see who can answer the most questions.
- 5. Save the questions to use again.**



Learning Goals (Standards Aligned)

- Ask and answer questions to show understanding of details in a text.

Why This Helps

Creating and answering trivia questions requires your child to identify and remember important details in the text.

Tips For Families

If you do this regularly, you will have a big bank of trivia questions about different topics to use for family games!



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