

The Foundation in Grade Four Matters.

Did you know...

- Many children who are proficient readers at the end of third grade begin to struggle in the fourth grade?
- That the fourth grade slump has been documented as a result of children having to suddenly navigate complex non-fiction texts?
- That the amount of writing expected in all subject areas increases significantly from third to fourth grade?



Source: Reading for Understanding RAND Reading Study Group 2002

A Complete Program of Language Arts Instruction for Grade 4

1. Reading Instruction

a. Fiction

* Two novel studies

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

*Skills taught through novel studies include:

- Motive and story patterns
- Story summarization
- Predicting outcomes
- Inferencing emotions
- Noticing details

* Silent reading

- Teaching children how to self-monitor
- Decoding, vocabulary and comprehension

* Read-aloud novel time by the teacher

b. Non-fiction

- Four lessons using mini-books to teach the parts of non-fiction texts
 - Dewey Decimal System Lessons
 - Sixteen non-fiction single page articles with comprehension questions
 - Topics range from horses to the Titanic
- ##### *Skills taught through non-fiction include:
- Text organization
 - Content comprehension

2. Writing Instruction

a. Handwriting

- Letters and idioms

b. Spelling

- Sight words, homonyms, prefixes, phonetics

c. Punctuation & Capitalization

- Seven periods of two page activities on capitals and punctuation

d. Quotation Marks Practice

e. Dictionary and Grammar Skills

- Weekly work with one or more of these concepts: guide words, word pronunciation, definitions, parts of speech and sentence structure

f. Paragraphs

- Descriptive, narrative, persuasive, instruction, compare and contrast

g. Poetry

- Six types of poems

h. Story Mapping

- Six story maps

i. Author Language

- Seven lessons

j. Research Report

k. Story Writing

l. Letter Writing Project