

## First Grade

### Language Arts, Reading, Creativity, and Geography

*(Recommended for ages 6 - 9, depending on child's reading level. Child should recognize all letters, know all basic letter sounds, and be familiar with basic consonant-vowel-consonant words like "cat" and "dot" before beginning this level.)*

- Fairytales, nature stories, and folktales from around the world
- Practicing printing with copywork selections (optional)
- Letter blends (beginning and ending)
- Reviewing basic CVC word families (such as "-ad" and "-og")
- Phonograms ai, ee, oa, aw, ow (the long ō sound), ea
- Short words that end in "o" (such as "go" and "no")
- The sounds of "-itch" and "-ight"
- Basic silent e words (such as make, role, etc.)
- Recognizing and reading a variety of "sight words" (commonly-occurring words with rules we have not learned yet, making it easier to read from a variety of sources)
- Reading short sentences
- Reading simple poems
- Reading short passages
- Reading short books (optional)
- Narrating back simple story lines
- Exploring literature weekly through journaling and a variety of creative, hands-on activities
- Locating various countries of the world on a map (optional)
- Exploring a variety of countries of origin of world folktales (optional)

### Science (appropriate for ages 5 - 12)

- The formation of Earth and our solar system
- Layers of the Earth
- Plate tectonics
- Earthquakes and volcanoes
- Crystals
- Minerals
- The three rock types
- The rock cycle
- Weathering and erosion
- Identifying rocks and minerals
- Human uses for rocks and minerals
- Fossils
- Landforms and bodies of water
- Layers of the atmosphere
- Weather and climate
- Using science to predict weather
- Using nature's signs to predict weather
- Clouds
- The water cycle
- Weather: wind, rain, snow and ice, thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hurricanes
- Rainbows

- Why we have seasons
- The spring equinox and the autumnal equinox
- The summer solstice and the winter solstice

### **Nature Study (appropriate for ages 5 - 12)**

- Making a calendar
- Observing and recording nature throughout the year
- Creating and displaying a rock, mineral, and fossil collection
- Making a salt-dough map of landforms and bodies of water around the child's home
- Keeping a weather log
- Building shelters
- Identifying feathers
- Tracing shadows
- Making an insect sanctuary
- Painting outdoors
- Making wind chimes
- And so much more!

### **History**

- Beginning in first grade, we do not include a history curriculum with our elementary year packages.
- History curriculum for the elementary years is currently in development, and the first units will be available to purchase separately from each year's package beginning in late 2019 / early 2020.

### **Exploring the Math in Art (Elementary Arts Curriculum, appropriate for ages 5 - 12)**

- Exploring artistic expression through weekly art prompts, using a variety of materials
- Mindful attention when looking at works of art
- Discussing observations of works of art
- Exploring the following math concepts through a variety of works of art: shapes, whole / parts, patterns, balance, and symmetry
- Exploring a variety of art forms: painting, sculpture, architecture, wood carving, sand mandalas, etc.

### **Book List for First Grade**

*Please note: the following list contains only the **required or highly recommended** books for our first grade curriculum. We include extensive lists of further recommended books in the curriculum, which a parent may choose to use or omit at their own discretion, according to their preferences.*

- *Among the Meadow People, Among the Pond People, and Among the Forest People* by Clara Dillingham Pierson
- *The Blue Fairy Book* by Andrew Lang, or the story version you prefer of the fairytales used in the curriculum (all can be easily found at your local library)

- The following stories by Hans Christian Andersen: “Thumbelina,” “The Emperor’s New Clothes,” and “The Snow Queen” (any version is fine)
- *Favorite Folktales from Around the World* edited by Jane Yolen
- *Fearless Girls, Wise Women, and Beloved Sisters: Heroines in Folktales From Around the World* by Kathleen Ragan
- *Smithsonian Super Earth Encyclopedia* by DK (not required, but highly recommended—used throughout the full year)
- *Nature Anatomy: The Curious Parts and Pieces of the Natural World* by Julia Rothman (not required, but highly recommended—used throughout the full year)

*The following books are not required, but they are recommended, and are only used for approximately one week each. Therefore, they would be appropriate selections for library use.*

- *Mary Anning and the Sea Dragon* by Jeannine Atkins
- *Air is All Around You* by Dr. Franklyn M. Branley
- *Weather Words and What They Mean* by Gail Gibbons
- *What Will the Weather Be?* By Lynda DeWitt
- *Clouds* by Anne Rockwell
- *Feel the Wind* by Arthur Dorros
- *Down Comes the Rain* by Dr. Franklyn M. Branley
- *Snow is Falling* by Dr. Franklyn M. Branley
- *Flash, Crash, Rumble, and Roll* by Dr. Franklyn M. Branley
- *Tornadoes* by Gail Gibbons
- *Hurricanes* by Gail Gibbons
- *The Reason for the Seasons* by Gail Gibbons
- *A New Beginning: Celebrating the Spring Equinox* by Wendy Pfeffer
- *The Longest Day: Celebrating the Summer Solstice* by Wendy Pfeffer
- *We Gather Together: Celebrating the Harvest Season* by Wendy Pfeffer
- *The Shortest Day: Celebrating the Winter Solstice* by Wendy Pfeffer