

Third Grade

Language Arts, Reading, Creativity, Geography and Culture

(Recommended for ages 8 - 11, depending on child's reading level. Please refer to our first and second grade scope and sequences to see what was covered in prior years. You can always mix and match more than one level of our language arts curriculum to accommodate your child's reading level. However, please keep in mind that some literature selections in this level may not be ideal for younger students.)

- Exploring character, setting, plot, and point of view through a variety of engaging literature selections and hands-on activities
 - Exploring storytelling, imagery, and language with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
 - Reading and writing poetry
 - Reading independently from picture books and early chapter books
 - Exploring literature weekly through a variety of creative, hands-on activities and **optional** journaling prompts
 - Experimenting with different forms of storytelling (ancient and modern) through **Optional** creative extension projects*
 - Exploring geography and culture through creation myths. Topics covered include: an introduction to mythology (which is the primary focus for our fourth grade curriculum), using and understanding maps and globes, an **optional** introduction to several major world religions, exploring the importance of storytelling in a variety of cultural contexts, and finding recurring themes in creation / origin stories from around the world
 - Prefixes and suffixes
 - The 3 sounds of "o" and the 3 sounds of "oo"
 - Reviewing all silent E rules
 - Reviewing r-controlled vowels and introducing the sounds of "war" and "wor"
 - The sounds of "ear"
 - The sounds of "ea"
 - Reviewing "oi / oy," "ou / ow," "au / aw," and introducing "ew," "ui," and "ue"
 - The sounds of "eigh" and "ei"
 - The sounds of "wr," "kn," "igh," "tch," "dge," "oe," and "mb"
 - Silent t and silent h
 - "Ph" words
 - Irregular verbs
 - Plural nouns and irregular plurals
 - Decoding unfamiliar words through context
 - Grammar (optional addition to weekly copywork)
- **The Creative Extensions Guide is a new addition to our language arts curriculum, beginning in second grade and includes a variety of project prompts / tutorials. **These projects are completely optional**, but are a wonderful way for your child to explore new forms of creative expression, inspired by the books we read in the curriculum. In third grade, these projects explore a variety of storytelling forms, from mask-work and theatre to stop-motion video to comic strips and puppets, and more!*

Science (appropriate for ages 5 - 12)

- Introduction to the kingdoms of life
- Six key features of the animal kingdom
- Classification of the animal kingdom (kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species)
- Invertebrate phylums and chordates
- Basic animal anatomy and needs (we touch briefly on cells and body systems but go into depth on these in the fourth grade year)
- Evolution, natural selection, individual variation, mutation, mass extinction, lost ancestors, fossil evidence, etc.
- Introduction to the various periods (precambrian, cambrian, ordovician, silurian, etc.)
- Trophic levels and the flow of energy
- Food chains and food webs
- Types of animal diets (herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, filter, waste, and liquid)
- Animal senses
- Animal defenses
- Migration and seasonal adaptations
- Animal relationships (communities, parenting, communication, etc.)
- The levels of ecological organization
- What makes a healthy ecosystem
- Succession
- Micro-ecosystems
- Ecosystems of the world
- The cycles of nature
- Human impact
- Exploring invertebrates: bryozoans, roundworms, flat worms, mollusks, segmented worms, arthropods
- Exploring fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals
- Optional 12-week Prehistoric Life Extension Unit (included with purchase of third grade, release date in spring 2020)

Nature Study (appropriate for ages 5 - 12)

- Local flow of energy, food chains, and food webs
- Local observation of the cycles of nature and human impact
- Local observation of seasonal adaptations and migratory patterns
- Local ecosystems and micro-ecosystems
- In-depth local bird study
- In-depth local arthropod study
- And 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 Level 3 (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 math concepts through a variety of works of art
- Exploring a variety of art forms
- This is the final level of our Exploring the Math in Art series. Starting in fourth grade, our focus will shift to a historical survey of art periods, as well as related techniques.

Book List for Third Grade

*Please note: the following list contains only the **required or highly recommended** books for our third 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.*

Part One: Read-Alouds that Correspond with our Language Arts Curriculum

Please note that the read-alouds in third grade are intended to be read by the parent (or on audiobook.) However, if you are using our curriculum with an advanced reader or an older student, you may have them read independently if you prefer.

Literature

- *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll
- *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster, illustrated by Jules Feiffer
- William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* retold by Bruce Coville, illustrated by Dennis Nolan (this is the recommended story version, but you can substitute with any store version you like)
- Optional: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare (reading the full play is completely optional—you will not need the full play to complete the activities in the curriculum)
- *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
- *El Deafo* by Cece Bell
- *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George
- *Ronia, the Robber's Daughter* by Astrid Lindgren
- *Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate
- *The Mighty Miss Malone* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Poetry

- *The National Geographic Book of Nature Poetry* edited by J. Patrick Lewis

Geography and Culture (*this is an **optional** component*)

- *In the Beginning: Creation Stories from Around the World* by Virginia Hamilton, illustrated by Barry Moser
- *One World, Many Religions: The Ways We Worship* by Mary Pope Osborne
- An atlas of your choice (we recommend *National Geographic Kids Beginner World Atlas*)

Independent Reading

- We also recommend that your child reads independently from level-appropriate books for at least 30 minutes on most days at this level. We do provide a recommended list of books in the curriculum for you to choose from. However, if your child is reading confidently at this time, we *highly recommend* letting them choose their own independent reading books from the library or used book stores (encourage a variety of picture books, chapter books, fiction and non-fiction, and graphic novels.)

Part Two: Reference Books that Correspond with our Science Curriculum

- *DK Smithsonian Animal!* by John Woodward
- *The Wondrous Workings of Planet Earth: Understanding Our World and Its Ecosystems* by Rachel Ignotofsky

The following books are not required, but they are recommended.

- *The Story of Life: Evolution* curated by Katie Scott
- *Animalium* curated by Katie Scott and Jenny Broom
- *Nature Anatomy* and *Farm Anatomy* by Julia Rothman

- **For use with the 12 week Prehistoric Life extension** (included with purchase of third grade, release date in spring 2020): *DK Smithsonian The Dinosaur Book* by John Woodward