

First Grade / Level 1

Language Arts, Reading, Creativity, and Geography (Second Edition)

(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 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
- Maps and globes
- Cardinal directions and the compass rose
- Symbols on a map and the map key
- Distances on a map
- Following and giving directions with a map
- Borders, countries, cities, landforms, and bodies of water on a map
- Continents and oceans of the world
- Country studies (with folktales): Scotland, Vietnam, and India (location, flag, size and population, music and dance, languages, natural features, plants and animals, man-made features)

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.

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.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS AN ART CURRICULUM, NOT A MATH CURRICULUM. YOU WILL NEED TO ADD A MATH CURRICULUM OF YOUR CHOOSING FOR YOUR CHILD.

Book List for First Grade / Level 1

*Please note: the following pages of book lists contain only the **required or highly recommended** books for our First Grade / Level 1 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.*

Required Book List: Level 1 Language Arts

Second Edition

Theme or "Focus"
(Weeks 1 - 19)



The selection we recommend,
which will be reflected in the
content of the curriculum.



Recommended alternatives or
additional stories to consider.
(You are also free to choose a
story not listed here.)



Week	Focus	Recommended Selection(s)	Alternative or Additional Selections
1	It Takes a Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Grandma Lena's Big Ol Turnip</i> by Denia Lewis Hester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Turnip</i> by Jan Brett <i>The Gigantic Turnip</i> by Aleksei Tolstoy
2	Appreciating What We Have	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>It Could Always Be Worse</i> by Margot Zemach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A Crowded Farmhouse Folktale</i> by Karen Rostoker-Gruber A beautiful oral retelling of this classic Jewish folktale: https://youtu.be/YFcirro1rZ8
3	Tell It In Three (Part 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas</i> by Natasha Yim OR <i>The Ghanian Goldilocks</i> by Dr. Tamara Pizzoli (male protagonist) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Three Bears</i> by Paul Galdone <i>Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs: As Retold by Mo Willems</i> by Mo Willems (a very silly version)
4	Tell It In Three (Part 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Three Little Pigs</i> by Paul Galdone (the wolf eats two of the pigs in this version, not ideal for very sensitive learners) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig</i> by Eugene Trivizas <i>The Three Little Javelinas</i> by Susan Lowell <i>The True Story of the Three Little Pigs</i> by Jon Scieszka
5	Asking Too Much	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Magic Fish</i> by Freya Littledale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Luba and the Wren</i> by Patricia Polacco <i>The Fisherman and His Wife</i> by Rachel Isadora https://www.storynory.com/the-golden-fish/
6	The Great Race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>When Turtle Grew Feathers</i> by Tim Tingle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Tortoise and the Hare</i> by Janet Stevens <i>The Tortoise or the Hare</i> by Toni Morrison and Slade Morrison (very different version) http://read.gov/aesop/025.html

Required Book List: Level 1 Language Arts, cont.

Second Edition

Week	Theme	Recommended Selection(s)	Alternative or Additional Selections
7	The Wolf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China</i> by Ed Young OR • <i>The Girl and the Wolf</i> by Katherena Vermette and Julie Flett (wolf as helper / guide) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Little Red Riding Hood</i> by Trina Schart Hyman • <i>Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion</i> by Alex T. Smith (not a wolf, but a fun version to explore)
8	The Fox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Henny Penny</i> by Paul Galdone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Fox Went Out on a Chilly Night</i> by Peter Spier • <i>Flossie and the Fox</i> by Patricia McKissack • <i>Basho and the River Stones</i> by Tim J. Myers
9	Work and the Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tops and Bottoms</i> by Janet Stevens OR • <i>Grasshopper and the Ants</i> by Jerry Pinkney 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Little Red Hen</i> by Paul Galdone • <i>The Little Red Fort</i> by Brenda Maier • <i>The Ants and the Grasshopper, Narrated by the Fanciful But Truthful Grasshopper</i> by Nancy Loewen
10	The Tower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rapunzel</i> by Barbara Barbara Rogasky OR • <i>Rapunzel</i> by Rachel Isadora 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Really, Rapunzel Needed a Haircut!: The Story of Rapunzel as Told by Dame Gothel</i> by Jessica Gunderson • <i>Rapunzel</i> by Chloe Perkins
11	Kindness Triumphs Over Cruelty There are so many stories that fit into this theme. Feel free to expand this one into several weeks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale</i> by John Steptoe OR • <i>The Woman Who Outshone the Sun</i> from a poem by Alejandro Cruz Martinez and Illustrated by Fernando Olivera 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Thumbelina</i> by Sylvia Long • <i>Snow White and Rose Red</i> by Kallie George and Kelly Vivanco • <i>Cendrillon</i> by Robert D. San Souci • <i>Yeh-Shen</i> by Ai-Ling Louie • <i>Domitila</i> by Jewell Reimhart Coburn • <i>The Irish Cinderlad</i> by Shirley Climo • <i>The Korean Cinderella</i> by Shirley Climo • <i>Cinderella</i> by Marcia Brown • Any number of Cinderella variations
12	Mysterious Helpers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Tomten</i> by Astrid Lindgren OR • <i>Rumpelstiltskin</i> by Paul Galdone OR • <i>The Elves and the Shoemaker</i> by Paul Galdone (please note that the elves are nude in this version, and there is a brief mention of Christmas--not detailed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Elves and the Shoemaker</i> illustrated by Jim Lamarche (alludes briefly to Christmas) • <i>Frankly, I'd Rather Spin Myself a New Name!: The Story of Rumpelstiltskin as Told by Rumpelstiltskin</i> by Jessica Gunderson

Required Book List: Level 1 Language Arts, cont.

Second Edition

Week	Theme	Recommended Selection(s)	Alternative or Additional Selections
13	Fast Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Stop that Pickle!</i> by Peter Armour (gentle ending) OR • <i>Gingerbread Baby</i> by Jan Brett (gentle ending) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Gingerbread Girl</i> by Lisa Campbell Ernst (lots of videos on YouTube for this one, screen first) • <i>The Gurabia Man</i> by Talene Dadian White (screen first, this one won't be for everyone--some aggressive behavior) • <i>The Musubi Man</i> by Sandi Takayama (gentle ending, available on YouTube)
14	Outwit and Outlast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Town Musicians of Bremen</i> by Gerda Muller OR • <i>Fin M'Cou! The Giant of Knockmany Hill</i> by Tomie dePaola 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Owl and the Two Rabbits</i> by Nadia Sammurtok (not recommended for sensitive learners) • <i>Clever Tom and the Leprechaun: An Old Irish Story</i> by Linda Shute
15	The Heart of Courage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mulan</i> by Li Jian OR • Disney's <i>Moana</i> (film) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mulan: The Legend of the Woman Warrior</i> by Faye-Lynn Wu • <i>Fritz and the Beautiful Horses</i> by Jan Brett • <i>The Tale of Tam Linn</i> by Lari Don
16	Playing with Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Magic Porridge Pot</i> by Paul Galdone OR • <i>Strega Nona</i> by Tomie dePaola 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Magic Porridge Pot</i> by Alan MacDonald
17	Tales of the Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Little Mermaid</i> by Jerry Pinkney (a wonderfully updated version with gorgeous illustrations!) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ponyo</i> (film, screen first) • <i>The Little Mermaid</i> by Hans Christian Andersen (screen first--the original version is not recommended for sensitive learners and won't be a good fit for every family) <p>Note: We explore selkie / selky stories during the Scotland collection later in the year.</p>
18	Tales of Ice and Snow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Snow Queen</i> by Hans Christian Andersen (longer, "winter figure" is cold and cruel) OR • <i>Grandmother Winter</i> by Phyllis Root (shorter, "winter figure" is sweeter and gentler) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Story Blanket</i> by Ferida Wolff (focus on caring for others during colder months) • <i>Good Night Wind: A Yiddish Folktale</i> by Linda Elovitz Marshall (beautiful story personifying the winter wind)
19	A Gift From the Animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Beaver Steals Fire: A Salish Coyote Story</i> by Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Water Dragon: A Chinese Legend</i> by Li Jian • <i>Thanks to the Animals</i> by Allen Sockabasin

Required Book List: Level 1 Language Arts, cont.

Second Edition

Weeks	Recommended Selection(s)	Alternative or Additional Selections
20 - 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Tales Our Abuelitas Told: A Hispanic Folktale Collection</i> by F. Isabel Campoy and Alma Flor Ada 	<p>For Weeks 20 - 35</p> <p><i>Always screen stories first. You may choose any story or stories you like to read each week from the following collections.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Korean Children's Favorite Stories</i> by Kim So-un <i>Russian Fairy Tales</i> recorded by Alexander Afanasyev and illustrated by Ivan Bilibin <i>African Tales: A Barefoot Collection</i> by Gcina Mhlophe and Rachel Griffin (some illustrations feature nudity) <i>Japanese Children's Favorite Stories</i> by Florence Sakade <i>Singapore Children's Favorite Stories</i> by Di Taylor <i>Filipino Children's Favorite Stories</i> by Liana Elena Romulo <i>Indonesian Children's Favorite Stories</i> by Joan Suyenaga <p>You may also choose any other collection you like. Be mindful when choosing, as some story collections are targeted at older learners and may contain frightening or mature content.</p>
24 - 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>An Illustrated Treasury of Scottish Folk and Fairy Tales</i> by Theresa Breslin and Kate Leiper 	
28 - 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Vietnamese Children's Favorite Stories Retold</i> by Tran Thi Minh Phuoc 	
32 - 35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mangoes, Mischief, and Tales of Friendship: Stories From India</i> by Chitra Soundar 	
36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A Story, A Story: An African Tale Retold</i> by Gail E. Haley 	
All Weeks (optional)	<p>Optional Weekly Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>When Green Becomes Tomatoes: Poems for All Seasons</i> by Julie Fogliano 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sing a Song of Seasons: A Nature Poem for Each Day of the Year</i> selected by Fiona Waters ANY poetry your family enjoys!

Note: For families that prefer a more contemporary approach, the following books feature several stories that can be used in place of the stories for weeks 1 - 19:

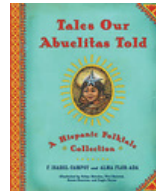
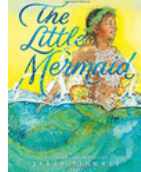
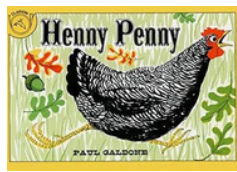
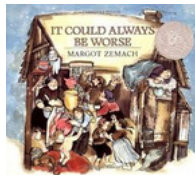
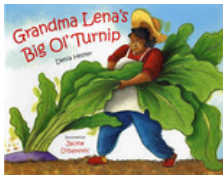
- Power to the Princess: 15 Favorite Fairytales Retold with Girl Power* by Vita Murrow
- High-Five to the Hero: 15 Favorite Fairytales Retold with Boy Power* by Vita Murrow

Note: For families that prefer a classical approach with longer stories, there are many fairy tale and folktale collections available for free online at Project Gutenberg. However, many of the stories in these older books contain problematic and racist content, so please screen carefully.

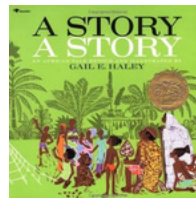
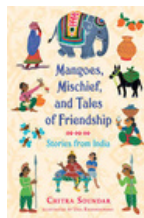
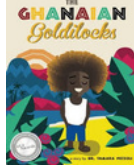
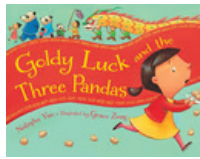
Required Book List: Level 1 Language Arts, cont.

Second Edition

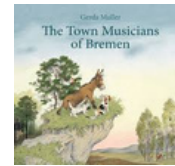
Recommended Selections Shown Below
(Please see full list for alternative or additional selections)



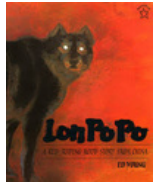
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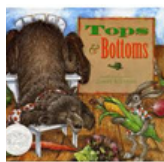
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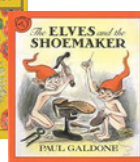
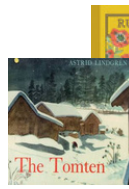
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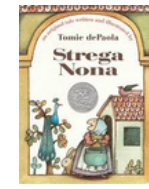
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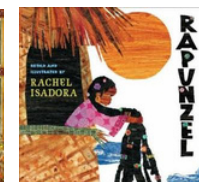
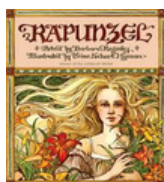
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Book List: Level 1 Science

Please note: Supply lists for each activity, project, demonstration, or lab suggested in this parent guide can be found in the laboratory guide. Since the supplies you will need will depend on which activities you select for each unit, there is not one comprehensive supply list for this curriculum. Please refer to the laboratory guide for supplies needed according to each option in each unit.

Required Books:

There are no required books for this curriculum. Theoretically, you could complete this curriculum without using any books at all, simply by using our "big picture" messages listed in each unit and our suggested video links. However, we do have several books that are highly recommended (see below) to help truly bring each topic to life in a visual way for your child.

Highly Recommended Books:

Wonder #	Book
Most	<i>Smithsonian Super Earth Encyclopedia</i> by DK
Most	<i>Nature Anatomy: The Curious Parts and Pieces of the Natural World</i> by Julia Rothman

The following books would be used for approx. 1 week each, so borrowing would be best:

15 - 16	<i>Mary Anning and the Sea Dragon</i> by Jeannine Atkins
19	<i>Air is All Around You</i> by Dr. Franklyn M. Branley
20	<i>Weather Words and What They Mean</i> by Gail Gibbons
22	<i>What Will the Weather Be?</i> By Lynda DeWitt
23	<i>Clouds</i> by Anne Rockwell
23	<i>Feel the Wind</i> by Arthur Dorros
25	<i>Down Comes the Rain</i> by Dr. Franklyn M. Branley
26	<i>Snow is Falling</i> by Dr. Franklyn M. Branley
27	<i>Flash, Crash, Rumble, and Roll</i> by Dr. Franklyn M. Branley
28	<i>Tornadoes</i> by Gail Gibbons
29	<i>Hurricanes</i> by Gail Gibbons
31	<i>The Reason for the Seasons</i> by Gail Gibbons
32	<i>A New Beginning: Celebrating the Spring Equinox</i> by Wendy Pfeffer
33	<i>The Longest Day: Celebrating the Summer Solstice</i> by Wendy Pfeffer
34	<i>We Gather Together: Celebrating the Harvest Season</i> by Wendy Pfeffer
35	<i>The Shortest Day: Celebrating the Winter Solstice</i> by Wendy Pfeffer