

## **Third Grade English Language Arts and Reading TEKS Introduction**

(1) In Grade 3, students read and write more independently than in any previous grade and spend significant blocks of time engaged in reading and writing on their own as well as in assigned tasks and projects. Students listen critically to spoken messages, think about their own contributions to discussions, and plan their oral presentations. Third grade students read grade-level material fluently and with comprehension. Students use root words, prefixes, suffixes, and derivational endings to recognize words. Students demonstrate knowledge of synonyms, antonyms, and multi-meaning words. Students are beginning to distinguish fact from opinion in texts. During class discussions, third grade students support their ideas and inferences by citing portions of the text being discussed. Students read in a variety of genres, including realistic and imaginative fiction, nonfiction, and poetry from classic and contemporary works. Third grade students write with more complex capitalization and punctuation such as proper nouns and commas in a series. Students write with more proficient spelling of contractions and homonyms. Third grade students write longer and more elaborate sentences and organize their writing into larger units of text. Students write several drafts to produce a final product. Students revise their writing to improve coherence, progression, and logic, and edit final drafts to reflect standard grammar and usage. Students master manuscript writing and may begin to use cursive writing.

(2) For third grade students whose first language is not English, the students' native language serves as a foundation for English language acquisition.

(3) The essential knowledge and skills as well as the student expectations for Grade 3 are described in subsection (b) of this section. Following each statement of a student expectation is a parenthetical notation that indicates the additional grades at which these expectations are demonstrated at increasingly sophisticated levels.

(4) To meet Public Education Goal 1 of the Texas Education Code, §4.002, which states, "The students in the public education system will demonstrate exemplary performance in the reading and writing of the English language," students will accomplish the essential knowledge and skills as well as the student expectations for Grade 3 as described in subsection (b) of this section.

(5) To meet Texas Education Code, §28.002(h), which states, ". . . each school district shall foster the continuation of the tradition of teaching United States and Texas history and the free enterprise system in regular subject matter and in reading courses and in the adoption of textbooks," students will be provided oral and written narratives as well as other informational texts that can help them to become thoughtful, active citizens who appreciate the basic democratic values of our state and nation.

(6) It is the goal of the state that all children read on grade level by the end of Grade 3 and continue to read on grade level or higher throughout their schooling.