

Common Core English Language Arts Literacy Tasks for First Graders

The Common Core standards is a curriculum adopted by over 40 states to create a new set of shared expectations for students. Common Core standards for English Language Arts involve three kinds of reading material: stories, poetry, and informational reading.

This worksheet outlines some of the English Language Arts “Literacy” tasks expected of first grade students. In *Born Reading: Bringing Up Bookworms in a Digital Age*, I explored more ways that parents and caregivers can children feel more comfortable with these tasks.

1. “Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.”

The more questions you ask your child while reading early in life, the more questions they can pose by themselves later in life.

2. “Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.”

With lots of practice, any kid can master this skill. It only takes a couple leading questions about a favorite book, app, movie or TV show.

3. “Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.”

Parents and caregivers can demonstrate this skill from the cradle onward, pointing out, dramatizing and asking questions about characters & settings.

4. “Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.”

Be sure to talk to children about the feelings a book evokes—help them describe characters’ emotions in any story.

5. “Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.”

When kids finish reading a book, take a moment to compare the story to real life experiences—it will help master this invaluable skill.