
Language Arts

Vocabulary Words Grades 3–5

These words and phrases were chosen because either they are terms within the assessed standards or they are cited in the benchmark clarification/content limits in the reading test item and performance task specifications.

Because Language Arts is a spiraling curriculum, many of these vocabulary words will be the same across grade clusters. It is the difficulty level of the text, the complexity of the assignment, and the degree of scaffolding (student independence) which changes as a student moves from grade-level to grade level.

prefix (re-, un-, pre-, dis-, mis-, in-, non-)

suffix (-er, -est, -ful, -less, -able -ly, -ness)

root word

context clues

antonym

synonym

homophone

compound word

contraction

multiple meanings

homonym (*grade 4 only*)

homophone (*grade 5 only*)

main idea or essential message (stated and implied)

relevant supporting details

chronological order

author's purpose (stated or implied)

persuasive text

comparison

contrast

reference materials (maps, charts, photos, dictionary, encyclopedia)

plot development

conflict resolution

draws conclusions/makes inferences

character development

setting

cause and effect relationship