

Third Grade Writing Standards

W1 – Habits (things to do daily)

Third grade students should:

- ◆ Write daily
- ◆ Come up with their own topics and spend the necessary time revising and refining their work
- ◆ Routinely rework, revise, edit, proofread, and evaluate their work
- ◆ Write for specific purposes (ex. thank you note, birthday card, invitation, etc)
- ◆ Pattern their writing after the writings of authors that have been discussed in class
- ◆ Reread, revise, edit, proofread, and evaluate their work
- ◆ Polish and publish 10 – 12 pieces (for an audience in and beyond the classroom) throughout the year

W2 – Narrative Writing (writings that include both fictional and autobiographical works)

By the end of third grade, students should be able to:

- ◆ Engage the reader by setting the time, indicating the location where the story takes place, introducing the character or entering immediately into the story line

- ◆ Create a believable world using characters and specific details about them, settings, motives and moods
- ◆ Create a sequence of events that unfolds naturally
- ◆ Develop a character by providing motivation for action and having the character solve the problem
- ◆ Develop plot by describing actions and emotions of main characters, using descriptive details, dialogue, etc.
- ◆ Provide some kind of conclusion

W2 – Report or Informational Writing

By the end of third grade, students should produce reports that:

- ◆ Introduce the topic
- ◆ Have an organized structure that is useful to the reader
- ◆ Communicate main ideas, theories, insights that are further explained or illustrated through facts, details, quotations, statistics and other information
- ◆ Use diagrams, charts or illustrations, when appropriate
- ◆ Usually have a concluding sentence or section
- ◆ Use a straightforward tone of voice

W2 – Functional Writing (writing a procedure)

By the end of third grade, students should be able to produce narrative procedures that:

- ◆ Identify the topic

- ◆ Provide a guide to action
- ◆ Show steps in an action in considerable detail
- ◆ Include all relevant information
- ◆ Use language that is straightforward and clear
- ◆ Use illustrations to detail steps in the procedure

W2 – Producing and Responding to Literature

By the end of third grade, students should be able to:

- ◆ Write stories, poems, memoirs, etc using styles learned from studying authors and genres
- ◆ Go beyond retelling and build on a story by extending or changing the story line
- ◆ Support an interpretation by providing sufficient detail and making specific references to the text
- ◆ Compare two works by the same author
- ◆ Discuss several works with a common idea or theme
- ◆ Make connections between the text and their own ideas and lives

W3 – Language Use and Conventions

By the end of third grade, students should be able to:

- ◆ Show relationships of ideas
- ◆ Use transitions words and phrases
- ◆ Use phrases and modifiers to make their writing lively and graphic
- ◆ Use varying sentence patterns and length to slow down or speed up reading to create mood
- ◆ Use literary language (describing words, similes, metaphors, etc) when appropriate
- ◆ Use words from their speaking vocabulary in their writing, including words learned from reading and class discussions
- ◆ Choose words that show they have a large enough vocabulary to have options in word choice (ex. more precise and vivid words)
- ◆ Extend their writing vocabulary by using specialized words related to the topic or setting (ex. use the names of kinds of trees when writing about the forest)
- ◆ Notice when words do not look correct and use strategies to correct the spelling
- ◆ Correctly spell all high-frequency words
- ◆ Correctly spell words with short vowel and common endings
- ◆ Correctly spell plurals and verb tenses
- ◆ Use correct spelling patterns and rules such as consonant doubling, dropping the final *e*, and changing *y* to *i*
- ◆ Correctly spell most words with *-tion*, *-ment*, and *-ly* endings
- ◆ Use capital letters at the beginnings of sentences
- ◆ Use periods and other end punctuation correctly most of the time
- ◆ Approximate the use of quotation marks and commas

◆ Use common contractions