

Grade 2 English Language Arts Course of Study

Highland Local Schools

Overview

In Second Grade English Language Arts, instruction is grounded in [Ohio's Learning Standards](#), supporting students as they expand their foundational reading and writing skills and begin to develop greater independence as learners. Students read a variety of literary and informational texts to strengthen comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency. They build decoding and word analysis skills through continued phonics instruction and develop strategies for understanding more complex text structures and language. Writing focuses on organizing ideas clearly in narrative, opinion, and informative formats, while grammar, punctuation, and spelling are taught in context. Through discussions, read-alouds, and written responses, students deepen their understanding of texts, express ideas clearly, and grow as confident communicators.

Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, and Fluency Instruction in Second Grade

Phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency instruction are key components of early reading success and are aligned with Ohio's Learning Standards. Teachers provide explicit, systematic instruction using the Orton-Gillingham approach through the Institute for Multisensory Education (IMSE), along with continued use of the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum to reinforce foundational sound skills. Lessons incorporate multisensory strategies to support all learners, including those with reading challenges, by engaging visual, auditory, and kinesthetic pathways. Students build decoding and encoding skills through structured phonics instruction while developing fluency through repeated reading, phrasing, and expression. This comprehensive approach helps students read with increased accuracy, speed, and comprehension, setting a strong foundation for lifelong literacy.

Phonemic Awareness/Phonics Focus	Red Words
Three consonant blends and blends with diagraphs; schwa (bacon); 5th syllable type: bossy R:er; Bossy R:ir; Bossy R:ur; Dipthongs: oi,oy,4th syllable pattern:v/v; dipthongs:ou,ow; igh; 3 great rules:doubling, drop, change; 6th syllable type; kind old words; Bossy R:ar; Bossy R:or; /aw/ spelled au and aw; contractions with have, would, will; other uses for silent e; y as a vowel; ph /f/, gh /f/; ch /k/and /sh/; /oo/ spelled oo and u; Other Bossy R combinations; silent letters; homophones	away, after, few, many, call, roo, ball, water, watch, far, goes, because, very, door, car, great, though, don't, little, through, always, hour, sure, buy, only, these, those, took, work, word, world, touch, hall, enough, laugh, read, often, heard, though, together, different move

Reading Vocabulary and Comprehension in Second Grade

Vocabulary and Comprehension instruction are closely connected and intentionally designed to build background knowledge and deepen understanding of text. Teachers use high-quality anchor texts across content areas to introduce new concepts, model thinking strategies, and support students in making meaningful connections. Explicit vocabulary instruction is embedded within these lessons, focusing on teaching high-utility words in context and encouraging students to use them in speaking and writing. Through guided discussions, repeated readings, and purposeful questioning, students strengthen their ability to analyze texts, infer meaning, and explain their thinking. This approach helps students grow as critical readers and confident communicators.

Unit	Anchor Text
Cinderella Around the World	What is Culture by Bobbie Kalman
	Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella by Robert San Souci
	Cinderella by Marcia Brown
	Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China by Ai-Ling Louie
	The Egyptian Cinderella by Shirley Climo
	Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale by John Steptoe
	Talking Eggs by San Souci
	The Rough-Face Girl by Rafe Martin
	Salmon Princess: An Alaska Cinderella Story by Mindy Dwyer
Exploring Habitats	A Desert Habitat by Bobbie Kalman and Kelley Macaulay
	A Forest Habitat by Bobbie Kalman and Kelley Macaulay
	A Rainforest Habitat by Bobbie Kalman and Molly Aloian
	Water Habitats by Bobbie kalman and Molly Aloian
Belonging and Friendship: Pinky and Rex	Pinky and Rex by James Howe
	Pinky and Rex and the Bully by James Howe
	Pinky and Rex and the Spelling Bee by James Howe
	Pinky and Rex and the School Play by James Howe
	Pinky and Rex and the New Baby by James Howe

Finding Your Power: Freddie Ramos	Zapato Power: Freddie Ramos Takes Off by Jacqueline Jules
	Zapato Power: Freddie Ramos Springs Into Action by Jacqueline Jules
	Freddie Ramos Zooms to the Rescue by Jaqueline Jones
People Who Changed the World	Mae Among the Stars by Roda Ahmed
	Rookie Biography: Mae Jameson
	Walt Disney: NG for Kids
	Rookie Biography: Jane Goodall
	Michael Jordan by Rachel Rose
	Pocket Full of Colors by Amy Gugliemo
	Salt in My Shoes
	Me Jane by Patrick McDonnell
	I am Jane Goodall by Brad Meltzer
	I am Walt Disney by Brad Meltzer
	Mary Blair's Unique Flair by Amy Novesky

District and State Reading Assessments

In Grade 2, students participate in several key assessments to support their continued growth in reading and language arts. Throughout the year, they take the NWEA MAP Growth Reading (Ohio 2-5) assessment to monitor progress in foundational and advanced literacy skills aligned with Ohio's Learning Standards. The data from these assessments helps guide instruction, target interventions, and support individualized learning. In early spring, students also take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), which evaluates reasoning and problem-solving skills. Results from the CogAT help inform instructional planning and support the identification process for gifted services.

Curriculum Materials, Instructional Methods and Resources

Ohio's English Language Arts Standards- Grade 2
 Institute for Multi-Sensory Education- Orton Gillingham
 Heggerty Phonemic Awareness
 Anchor Texts - guided by Fishtank Learning
 Scholastic News
 IXL Learning