

# Elementary Readers: Parents' Guide

Follow these tips to ensure a successful tutoring session!



## Create a routine

Establish a regular schedule (ex. Mon/Wed/Fri) to build confidence and consistency. Keep sessions short—20-30 minutes—to maintain engagement.



## Make the most of your session

Help your child log in, complete the “Connect with a Tutor Now” form, and choose Chat + Voice\* for read-aloud support.



## Ask a question!

Not sure what to ask? Use the prompts on this worksheet to get started. Ask your child's teacher which of these to practice.

Upload your own worksheets or texts, share your screen, or tutors can share both fiction and nonfiction stories (it may take a few minutes for tutors to find materials at student reading level).



## Share key details.

Let the tutor know of any special learning needs your student may have. For example:

- My student is in 3rd grade but reading at a 1st grade level.
- My student confuses “d” and “b.”
- My student is having a hard time with reading comprehension; he/she is able to identify the words but has difficulty summarizing key details.

## Tutors can help with:

### Phonics / Word Recognition

- Connecting letters and sounds
- Accurately recognizing and reading words

### Fluency

- Reading smoothly and accurately

### Comprehension

- Understanding what you are reading

### Vocabulary

- Learning and using new words

### Text Features/Structure

- Sequencing of events
- Identifying cause and effect
- Summarizing text and making inferences
- Determining a theme or main idea from a text

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## Kindergarten Prompts

### Can you help my child...

- Read aloud for 20 minutes.
- Name upper- and lowercase letters.
- Practice matching letters to their sounds (ex. "b" says /b/).
- Blend sounds to read simple words (ex. st-, ca-, bl-, th-).
- Read a short story and help my child retell the beginning, middle, and end.
- Practice reading common sight words (ex. the, is, me, they, look, here).
- Describe characters or settings from a story.
- Ask and answer questions about what they read (who, what, where).
- Practice recognizing rhyming words and word patterns.

## First Grade Prompts

### Can you help my child...

- Practice reading aloud and sounding out new words.
- Practice asking and answering: who, what, when, where, why, and how questions.
- Read and understand nonfiction texts (ex. books about animals, weather, sports).
- Find and discuss new words they don't know using context clues.
- Practice reading words with common vowel teams (ex. ai, ee).
- Read a story and identify the main topic or message.
- Retelling stories, including key details.
- Notice how characters change in a story.
- Practice reading sight words more fluently.

## Second Grade Prompts

### Can you help my child...

- Read a story with expression and smoothness.
- Practice identifying the main idea and key details in a text.
- Explain how characters respond to problems.
- Compare two versions of the same story (ex. fairy tales).
- Figure out the meaning of new words using clues from the sentence.
- Practice reading and understanding nonfiction texts.
- Practice reading words with prefixes and suffixes (ex. re-, -ful).
- Describe the overall structure of a text (ex. beginning, middle, end).

## Third Grade Prompts

### Can you help my child...

- Read a story and figure out the central message or lesson.
- Practice describing how characters' actions affect the story.
- Compare and contrast two characters or texts.
- Use context clues to figure out tricky words.
- Identify cause-and-effect relationships.
- Read aloud with fluency and expression.
- Identify nonfiction text features.
- Explain the author's point of view.
- Practice reading multisyllabic words.
- Practice understanding nonfiction text structures (ex. sequence, problem/solution).

## Fourth Grade Prompts

### Can you help my child...

- Find the theme or main idea in a story or article.
- Practice explaining how a character's words and actions reveal their traits.
- Summarize a story or article.
- Practice comparing different points of view.
- Use text evidence to support their answers.
- Identify text structures.
- Read a nonfiction article and determine the author's purpose.
- Practice reading complex sentences smoothly and fluently.
- Practice using context clues to figure out the meaning of figurative language (ex. similes, personification, onomatopoeia).

## Fifth Grade Prompts

### Can you help my child...

- Find and explain multiple themes or ideas.
- Summarize a nonfiction article.
- Explain how an author supports their points with evidence.
- Practice reading longer passages fluently and with expression.
- Compare stories from the same genre (ex. two mysteries).
- Practice comparing and contrasting characters, settings, or events using details from the text.
- Analyze how text structures shape meaning.
- Practice identifying figurative language and what it means.

College and Career Ready Standards for Literacy (CCRS) establish guidelines for English language arts (ELA) and literacy. These standards are designed to ensure that students in grades K-12 develop essential reading skills.