1st Grade Literature

The texts in 1st Grade Literature afford students the opportunity to interact with various genres of literature. We encourage you to join your students on their literary journey so as to also join them in meaningful conversation about their reading. The worst thing we can do for students is deconstruct literature so much that they cannot even see the story for the words. Certainly literature deconstruction allows for "convenient" busywork, but it can kill a child's love of reading. If a child reads, they will naturally pick up on character development, plot development, etc. These things can also come up naturally in conversation.

In addition to encouraging your child to read and providing him with good literature to read, be sure to let your child see you reading, too. Reading isn't something we just do for school, it is something we can do for fun and learning our entire lives!

While the 1st Grade Literature curriculum calls for the reading of certain texts, students should certainly be encouraged to read other books throughout the year as well.

Main texts for 1st Grade Literature:

- Hero Tales From American History by Lodge and Roosevelt (<u>electronic copy</u>)
- Little House series by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- A Child's Garden of Verses by Robert Louis Stevenson (<u>electronic copy</u>)
- Psalm 23
- Psalm 33
- Psalm 1
- Psalm 121
- Psalm 150
- Psalm 134
- Psalm 27
- Psalm 136
- Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
- Folk/Tall Tales (The Marvelous Exploits of Paul Bunyan)

Teachers should make every effort not to make reading laborious for the student. However, students should be encouraged, for example, if they come across a word that cannot be surmized by context, to pause in their reading and look up the word in the dictionary. Again, at the risk of making reading laborious, students should be encouraged to keep a literature notebook that contains newfound words or words they find interesting. This same notebook could also be a place to record questions they have about what they are reading, names of characters (especially if there are many characters to remember), etc.

Being able to recall what one has read in narrative fashion should be a frequently practiced skill in 1st grade. Use these recollections as the start of casual conversation about what the student is reading (much like a book club). If a student recalls something particularly interesting or strange that happened in the story, probe deeper with questions like "why do you think did that?" or "why do you think that happened?" If these conversations are commonplace, it will reinforce for the student to be an attuned reader, even when reading literature for pleasure.



Hero Tales from American History by Henry Cabot Lodge and Theodore Roosevelt

Not available

Little House series by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Not available

A Child's Garden of Verses by Robert Louis Stevenson

Not available



Not available

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

Not available

The Marvelous Exploits of Paul Bunyan by William B. Laughead

Not available