2nd Grade Literature

The texts in 2nd Grade Literature afford students the opportunity to interact mainly with literature in narrative form. 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 2nd 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 2nd Grade Literature:

- The Call of the Wild by Jack London (<u>Link to an electronic version</u>)
- Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery (<u>Link to an electronic version</u>)
- Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain (Link to an electronic version)
- Song of Hiawatha by Longfellow (<u>Link to an electronic version</u>)
- The Story of Doctor Dolittle by Hugh Lofting (<u>Link to an electronic version</u>)
- The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgeson Burnett (<u>Link to an electronic version</u>)

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 2nd 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.

Suggested reading schedule:

Day 1: student read

Day 2: teacher read to student

Day 3: student read

Day 4: student read to teacher

Day 5: student read





Not available

The Story of Doctor Dolittle by Hugh Lofting

Not available

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery

Not available

The Song of Hiawatha by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Not available

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

Not available