



**NYLearns**  
Curriculum Management  
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# Glossary

## Common Core Curriculum Maps ELA/Grade 3 – Grade 5

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# Grade 3 – Grade 5

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**abstract noun** A noun that denotes an idea, emotion, feeling, quality or other abstract or intangible concept

**adage** A proverb or short statement expressing a general truth

**adjective** A word or phrase naming an attribute, added to or grammatically related to a noun to modify or describe it

**adverb** A word or phrase that modifies or qualifies an adjective, verb, or other adverb or a word-group, expressing a relation of place, time, circumstance, manner, cause, degree, etc. (e.g., gently, quite, then, there)

**almanac** An annual calendar containing important dates and statistical information such as astronomical data and tide tables

**animation** The technique of photographing successive drawings or positions of puppets or models to create an illusion of movement when the movie is shown as a sequence

**antonym** A word opposite in meaning to another (e.g., bad and good)

**atlas** A book of maps or charts

**author** A writer of a story, article, book, or other piece of writing

**author's purpose** The reason an author decides to write about a specific topic; usually to inform, to entertain, to persuade, or to explain

**autobiography** A story of a person's life written by that person

**biography** A story of someone's life written by someone else

**brainstorm** The process of planning and coming up with ideas

**capitalization** To use the large alphabetic characters as the first letter in a sentence or in reference to a proper name

**caption** A title or brief explanation appended to an article, illustration, or poster

**cause** The person or thing that gives rise to action

**cause and effect relationship** When one person or thing gives rise to a specific action or condition

**chapter** A main division of a book, typically with a number or title

**character motivation** the reasons why a character acts, thinks or feels a certain way

**character trait** A characteristic; description of how a character thinks, acts, looks, or feels

**chronological** (of a record of several events) Starting with the earliest and following the order in which they occurred

**clause** A unit of grammatical organization next below the sentence in rank and in traditional grammar said to consist of a subject and predicate

**comma** A punctuation mark (,) indicating a pause between parts of a sentence; also used to separate items in a list and to mark the place of thousands in a large numeral

**comparative** (of an adjective or adverb) Expressing a higher degree of a quality, but not the highest possible

**compare** To show how two things are similar

**complex sentence** A sentence containing a subordinate clause or clauses

**compound sentence** A sentence with more than one subject or predicate

**compound-complex sentence** A sentence having two or more coordinate independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses

**conclusion** The ending, or summing-up of an argument or report

**concrete noun** A noun that denotes something tangible or material, such as a person or place

**conflict** A struggle, disagreement, or fight

**conjunction** A word used to connect clauses or sentences.

**context clue** Information that can be found from the words, phrases, or illustrations that surround an unfamiliar word

**contrast** To show how two things are different

**coordinating conjunction** A conjunction placed between words, phrases, clauses, or sentences of equal rank, e.g., and, but, or

**correlative conjunction** The coordinating conjunctions and, but, or, and nor are often used with both, not only, either, and neither, respectively, to form what are known as correlative conjunctions. Correlatives are always used in pairs. These, like the other coordinating conjunctions,

**declarative sentence** A sentence that makes a statement (as opposed to a question, exclamation, or command)

**definition** A statement of the exact meaning of a word

**dialect** A particular form of a language that is peculiar to a specific region or social group

**dialogue** Conversation between two or more people as a feature of a book, play, or movie

**dictionary** A book that lists the words of a language in alphabetical order and gives their meaning

**draft** The first version of a piece of writing

**drama** A play for theater, radio, or television

**edit** To search for errors and make corrections in a piece of writing

**effect** A change that is a result or consequence of an action or other cause

**encyclopedia** A book or set of books giving information on many subjects or on many aspects of one subject and typically arranged alphabetically

**evidence** Facts or information that can prove that something is true

**exaggeration** A statement that represents something as better or worse than it really is

**exclamatory sentence** A sentence that expresses strong feeling and ends with an exclamation point.

**explanatory** A type of writing that serves to inform or explain something

**fable** A short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral

**fact** Something that can be proven to be true; verifiable through research not based on opinion or preference

**fantasy** A genre of imaginative fiction involving magic and adventure, esp. in a setting other than the real world

**fiction** Stories, tales, and novels that describe imaginary events and people

**figurative language** Figurative language refers to words, and groups of words, that exaggerate or alter the usual meanings of the component words; states something that is not literally true in order to create an effect

**first-person narrator** A character in the story is telling the story

**folktale** A story that is sometimes shared orally and that is passed from one generation to the next in a particular culture

**formal English** Language that is generally used in written communication or when delivering speeches or presentations.

**future tense** a verb tense that expresses actions or states in the future

**genre** A category, characterized by similarities in form, style, or subject matter

**glossary** An alphabetical list of terms or words found in or relating to a specific subject, usually with explanations; a brief dictionary

**grammar** The rules and structures of a language.

**graphic** A visual image (drawing, graph, photograph, etc.)

**graphic novel** A novel in comic-strip format

**guide words** a word printed at the top of the page of a dictionary or other reference book to indicate the first or last item on that page

**heading** A title at the head of a page or section of a book; a division or section of a subject

**historical fiction** Works in which the characters are fictional, but the setting and other details are rooted in actual history.

**homograph** Each of two or more words spelled the same but not necessarily pronounced the same and having different meanings and origins

**homophone** Each of two or more words having the same pronunciation but different meanings, origins, or spelling, e.g., new and knew

**hyperlink** A link from a hypertext file or document to another location or file, typically activated by clicking on a highlighted word or image on the screen

**idiom** A group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words (e.g., rain cats and dogs, see the light)

**imaginary** Fanciful; not real; existing only in the imagination

**indent** Start (a line of text) or position (a block of text, table, etc.) further from the margin than the main part of the text

**inference** A conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning

**informal English** Language that may not adhere to the rules of Standard American English, or which may include slang; generally used amongst people who are very familiar with one another

**informative** Writing that provides useful or interesting information

**interjection** An abrupt remark or exclamation

**interrogative sentence** A sentence that asks a question

**introduction** A beginning or preliminary section that explains a topic

**irregular verb** A verb that does not follow the normal rules for tense or agreement

**italics** A type that is printed at a slant and that indicates emphasis or a title

**key word** A significant or important word

**keyboarding** To type or input text into a device

**lesson** The moral; what was learned by the character or the reader

**linking words** Another name for conjunctions. Words or phrases which link ideas within sentences and across sentence and paragraph boundaries.

**main idea** The most important thought or idea that is presented and supported by other details and points

**media** The main means of mass communication (television, radio, Internet news, etc.)

**metaphor** A comparison between two seemingly different things that does not use like or as; the use of a word or phrase to refer to something that it isn't, invoking a direct similarity between the word or phrase used and the thing described, but without the words

**meter** The rhythm of a piece of poetry

**mood** The atmosphere or general feeling that is created in a story, work of art, or piece of music

**moral** A lesson, esp. one concerning what is right or good, that can be learned from a story, a piece of information, or an experience

**multimedia** Using more than one medium of expression or communication

**mystery** A novel, play, or movie dealing with a puzzling crime, esp. a murder

**myth** A traditional story, esp. one concerning the early history of a people or explaining some natural or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events

**narrative** A spoken or written account of connected events; a story

**narrator** A person who tells the events of a story, esp. a character who recounts the events of a novel or narrative poem

**nonfiction** Writing that is based on facts, real events, and real people, such as biography or history

**note-taking** Writing information that is taken from a source such as a reference book, discussion, speech, etc.

**noun** A word (other than a pronoun) used to identify any of a class of people, places, or things (common noun), or to name a particular one of these (proper noun)

**novel** A fictional story that is fully developed, of considerable length, and generally includes chapters

**opinion** A view or judgment formed about something, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge

**paraphrase** To reword something written or spoken by someone else

**parentheses** One or both of a pair of marks ( ) used to include a word, clause, or sentence

**parts of speech** The categories to which words are assigned based on how they are used. In English, the parts of speech are: noun, pronoun, adjective, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction, and interjection

**past tense** A verb tense that expresses actions or states in the past

**persuasive** Writing or speech that attempts to convince someone to think or act differently

**phrase** A small group of words that stand together as a unit in a sentence and that form part of a clause

**plot** The main events of a play, novel, movie, or story

**plural** More than one

**poem** A kind of writing, usually in verse. Poetry verse is set out in short lines with words put together in rhythm or rhyme or both; usually shares an experience or strong feelings; written with words chosen for their sounds and beauty as well as their meaning

**point-of-view** The narrator's position in relation to the story being told; the position from which something or someone is observed

**possessive** The noun form that indicates ownership and which is usually denoted with an apostrophe and an s

**predicate** The part of a sentence or clause containing a verb and stating something about the subject

**prefix** Letters or letter combinations placed at the beginning of a word that change the word's meaning

**preposition** A word that usually comes before a noun or pronoun and expresses position or relationship to another word or element in the clause

**present tense** A verb tense that expresses actions or states at the time of speaking

**pre-writing** The first stage of the writing process, typically followed by drafting, revision, editing and publishing. Elements of prewriting may include planning, research, outlining, or brainstorming

**problem/solution** The act of identifying or writing about a problem, a conflict, or issue of concern and presenting or recounting one or more possible solutions.

**pronoun** A word that is used in place of a noun

**pronunciation** The way in which words are spoken

**proverb** A short saying that states a general truth or piece of advice

**publish** To prepare and issue for public view and use

**quest** A long and difficult search for something or someone

**quotation mark** Each of a set of punctuation marks, single ( ' ') or double ( " " ), used either to mark the beginning and end of a title or quoted passage

**reference book** A book intended to be consulted for information on specific topics; a book to which you can refer for authoritative facts

**research** The investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to gather facts and reach new conclusions

**revise** To look over and change something originally written

**rhythm** A strong, regular, repeated pattern of movement or sound

**rough draft** The first attempt at organized writing on a topic

**run-on sentence** A sentence where two or more independent clauses are put together with a conjunction or period

**scene** The place where an incident in real life or fiction occurs or occurred; a subdivision of an act of a play

**scientific** Based on or characterized by the methods and principles of science; systematic; methodical

**sensory detail** Words and phrases that help readers see, hear, taste, feel, or smell what the author is describing.

**sentence fragment** An incomplete sentence; a sentence that is missing the subject, the verb, or both

**setting** The place, time, and type of surroundings where an event or story takes place

**sidebar** A short article in a newspaper or magazine, typically boxed, placed alongside a main article, and containing additional or explanatory material

**simile** A figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more vivid and using the word like or as (e.g., as brave as a lion, crazy like a fox)

**simple predicate** The main verb or action that relates to the subject

**simple sentence** A sentence consisting of only one clause, with a single subject and predicate

**simple subject** The main noun of the sentence; that which is acting or being acted upon

**source** A book, document, or person used to provide evidence in research

**stage direction** An instruction in the text of a play, esp. one indicating the movement, position, or tone of an actor, or the sound effects and lighting

**standard English** A dialect of the English language that most closely adheres to the published vocabulary, spelling, and grammar conventions

**stanza** A group of lines that forms a unit in a poem; a verse

**subject** The noun to which the rest of the sentence relates

**subject-verb agreement** Grammatical rule that states that the verb must agree in number with its subject; singular subjects take singular verbs while plural subjects take plural verbs

**subordinating conjunction** A conjunction that introduces a subordinate clause (e.g., although, because)

**suffix** Letters or letter combinations placed at the end of a word that change the word's meaning



**summary** A brief statement or account of the main points of something

**superlative** Expressing the highest or a very high degree of a quality (e.g., bravest, most fiercely)

**supporting detail** Information that tells more about the main idea

**supporting reason** Information that relates to a persuasive argument

**suspense** A state or feeling of excited or anxious uncertainty about what may happen

**syllable** A unit of pronunciation having one vowel sound, with or without surrounding consonants, forming the whole or a part of a word

**synonym** A word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as another word or phrase in the same language

**technical** Related to a particular subject, art, or craft and its techniques; special knowledge or information that is specific to a problem or subject

**theme** A general idea or subject that relates to life or human nature

**thesaurus** A book that lists words in groups of synonyms and related concepts

**third-person narrator** A person describing the events of a story, but who is not a character in the story

**timeline** A graphic with dates and key events listed in chronological order

**tone** The feeling that an author has and communicates about the subject or to the audience (e.g. playful, serious; formal, informal)

**transitional phrase** A phrase that connects or shows the relationship between parts of a piece of writing (e.g. for example, as a result, on the other hand, in contrast)

**transitional word** A word that connects or shows the relationship between parts of a piece of writing (e.g. then, furthermore, however, after, meanwhile)

**verb** An action word; a word used to describe an action, state, or occurrence, and forming the main part of the predicate of a sentence, such as hear, become, happen

**verse** A group of lines that form a unit in a poem or song; a stanza

**word family** Groups of words that have a common pattern; words that are related to each other in meaning or form