



Glossary

Common Core Curriculum Maps ELA/Grade 3 – Grade 5

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Grade 3 – Grade 5

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 conju

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	simple predicate	The main verb or action that relates to the subject
rhythm	A strong, regular, repeated pattern of movement or sound	simple sentence	A sentence consisting of only one clause, with a single subject and predicate
rough draft	The first attempt at organized writing on a topic	simple subject	The main noun of the sentence; that which is acting or being acted upon
run-on sentence	A sentence where two or more independent clauses are put together with a conjunction or period	source	A book, document, or person used to provide evidence in research
scene	The place where an incident in real life or fiction occurs or occurred; a subdivision of an act of a play	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
scientific	Based on or characterized by the methods and principles of science; systematic; methodical	standard English	A dialect of the English language that most closely adheres to the published vocabulary, spelling, and grammar conventions
sensory detail	Words and phrases that help readers see, hear, taste, feel, or smell what the author is describing.	stanza	A group of lines that forms a unit in a poem; a verse
sentence fragment	An incomplete sentence; a sentence that is missing the subject, the verb, or both	subject	The noun to which the rest of the sentence relates
setting	The place, time, and type of surroundings where an event or story takes place	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
sidebar	A short article in a newspaper or magazine, typically boxed, placed alongside a main article, and containing additional or explanatory material	subordinating conjunction	A conjunction that introduces a subordinate clause (e.g., although, because)
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)	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