



# FAMILY GUIDE TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

## Grade 5



Academic standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. The **Kansas English Language Arts (KELA)** standards focus on reading, writing, speaking, listening and communication development. Your student's mastery of these academic standards ensures they are well prepared for life after high school graduation.

The KELA standards are a collection of skills that students should learn and be able to perform at advancing levels in order to meet the five foundational practice for language arts.

Language arts foundational practices:

- Speak, read and listen appropriately in all subject areas.
- Seek to understand different viewpoints.
- Use knowledge gained from reading and writing to help solve problems.
- Create different versions of texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Self-regulate and monitor growth in writing, speaking, reading and listening.

### Example KELA expectations:

**Ask** and **answer** questions.

**Summarize** key details of stories, dramas, poems and nonfiction texts.

**Quote** accurately from a text.

**Compare** and contrast two or more characters, settings or events in a story or drama.

**Critique** evidence that supports particular ideas

in an author's argument.

**Introduce/report** on a topic clearly, state an opinion and create an organizational structure in which ideas are grouped logically to support the writer's purpose.

**Link** opinions and reasons using words, phrases and clauses.

**Write** opinions, including reasoned arguments and logically grouped facts and

examples that support the writer's point of view.

**Write** real and imaginary stories that unfold naturally, including dialogue, description and pacing to develop the plot.

**Prepare** for classroom discussions and engage fully and thoughtfully with others.

**Expand, combine** and **reduce** sentences to improve meaning, interest

and style of writing.

**Build** knowledge of academic words.

**Determine** the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text.

**Analyze** how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone or beauty of a text.

**Interpret** figurative language, including similes and metaphors in context.

## What might this look like in a classroom?

Students in a language arts classroom should be able to ...

**Write, speak, read** and **listen** in all content areas to build knowledge.

**Set goals** and monitor their progress.

**Solve** problems.

**Create** meaning.

**Think** critically about real-world issues.

**Develop** a deep understanding of the world using foundational literacy practices.

**Build** on their literacy skills from prior years.

## What can I do to support learning at home?

- Talk to your child at home!

*What did you learn today?*

*Did you understand?*

*What was difficult or what do you need more help with?*

- Encourage your child to read.
- Visit the library and read a book together.
- Look at your child's work and talk to them about it.

## Outside Resources

- **Learning Heros:** <https://belearninghero.org/learning-tools/parents/>
- **Parents' Guide to Students Success, National PTA:**  
<https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents-Guides-to-Student-Success>
- **Kansas Vision for Education, Kansas State Department of Education:**  
<http://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/Communications-and-Recognition-Programs/Vision-Kansans-Can>
- **Parent Toolkit:** <https://www.parenttoolkit.com/>
- **English Language Arts, KSDE:** [www.ksde.org/ela](http://www.ksde.org/ela)

For more information, contact:

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