

**Poudre School District  
LANGUAGE ARTS  
ESSENTIAL STANDARDS for THIRD GRADE**

**STANDARD 1: READING  
Students read and understand a variety of materials**

**1.1 BENCHMARK: COMPREHENSION SKILLS**

**Students will use a variety of comprehension skills in reading (e.g., preview, predict, compare and contrast, self-monitor, summarize)**

- Identify what is known and needs to be known about a topic before reading about it
- Apply information and make connections from reading
- Draw inferences using contextual clues
- Use information in texts to support main ideas
- Summarize text passages, focused on literal meaning, supported with details from text

**1.2 BENCHMARK: PRIOR KNOWLEDGE**

**Make connections between texts and prior knowledge and identify knowledge needed before reading about topic**

**1.3 BENCHMARK: READING PURPOSE**

**Adjust reading strategies for different purposes**

- Read at an appropriate rate
- Use organizational patterns to comprehend texts (e.g., chronological order, sequencing, cause and effect)

**1.4 BENCHMARK: WORD RECOGNITION STRATEGIES**

**Use a variety of word recognition skills and resources**

- Use prefixes, suffixes and roots to decode multi-syllabic words
- Use self-correcting strategies to decode unknown words

**1.5 BENCHMARK: VOCABULARY**

**Use information from reading to increase vocabulary and enhance language usage**

- Use word walls and other sources to determine word meaning

**STANDARD 2: WRITING AND SPEAKING  
Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences**

**2.1 BENCHMARK: GENRE**

**Write and speak in a variety of genres**

- Write narrative texts with characters and setting (place)
- Write personal narratives with beginning, middle and end
- Write basic expository paragraphs

**2.2 BENCHMARK: AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE**

**Write and speak for a variety of audiences and purposes**

- Understand that writing has voice

**2.3 BENCHMARK: WRITING PROCESS**

**Use the steps of the writing process (e.g., plan, draft, revise, edit, share)**

- Know and practice all steps of the writing process
- Revise and edit writing to produce a second draft to be shared
- Use basic editing marks to correct first draft, e.g., spelling, capitalization, punctuation, inserting a word or letter

**\*Skills listed on this document should be mastered at the grade level where they appear.**

- 2.4 BENCHMARK: DEVICES AND WORD CHOICE**  
**Use a variety of devices (e.g., figure of speech, symbolism, dialect, vocabulary) to convey meaning**
- Use active and precise verbs
  - Use a variety of **sentence** beginnings
- 2.5 BENCHMARK: ORGANIZATION**  
**Use a variety of strategies to organize written and oral presentations (e.g., lists, outlining, cause/effect, comparison/contrast)**
- Use graphic organizers and lists to organize writing
  - Organize writing with a main idea and supporting details
- 2.6 BENCHMARK: PRODUCT PRESENTATION**  
**Use appropriate strategies to publish writing**
- Choose presentation method appropriate to the **purpose**
  - Create a legible document
  - Write in cursive style

### **STANDARD 3: LANGUAGE STRUCTURE**

**Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling**

- 3.1 BENCHMARK: GRAMMAR AND USAGE**  
**Use conventions of grammar and usage in writing and speaking**
- Use correct subject/verb agreement
- 3.2 BENCHMARK: SENTENCE STRUCTURE**  
**Use correct sentence structure in writing**
- Write complete simple **sentences**
- 3.3 BENCHMARK: PUNCTUATION**  
**Use conventions of punctuation in writing**
- Use commas for day, month and year; greetings and closings in friendly letters; and cities and states
  - Use apostrophes in contractions
- 3.4 BENCHMARK: CAPITALIZATION**  
**Use conventions of capitalization in writing**
- Capitalize simple titles and holidays (Miss Jones, Fourth of July)
- 3.5 BENCHMARK: SPELLING**  
**Use conventions of spelling in writing**
- Use age-appropriate spelling with phonetic spelling for difficult words
  - Identify, use and spell regular plurals

### **STANDARD 4: THINKING AND VIEWING**

**Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing**

- 4.1 BENCHMARK: THINKING AND ANALYTICAL SKILLS**  
**Use thinking and analytical skills in writing, reading, speaking, listening and viewing**
- Understand oral directions
- 4.2 BENCHMARK: PROBLEM SOLVING**  
**Use reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing to define and solve problems**

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- 4.3 BENCHMARK: OPINIONS**  
**Recognize, express and support opinions orally and in writing**
- Identify opinions
- 4.4 BENCHMARK: AUTHOR’S POINT OF VIEW**  
**Know the purpose, perspective and historical and cultural influences of a speaker, author or director**
- Identify narrator of a story
- 4.5 BENCHMARK: EVALUATION**  
**Use a variety of criteria to evaluate information (e.g., reliability, accuracy, relevancy)**
- Understand that rubrics and checklists are used to evaluate student work

## **STANDARD 5: RESEARCH**

**Students read to locate, select and make use of relevant information from a variety of media, reference and technological sources**

- 5.1 BENCHMARK: RESOURCES**  
**Understand the structure, organization and use of resources to gather information for research**
- Use a variety of informational resources to locate information, with support
  - Alphabetize to the third letter
- 5.2 BENCHMARK: ORGANIZATION OF INFORMATION**  
**Use a variety of strategies to organize information**
- Use resources to locate information about a topic
  - Sort information as it relates to a specific topic and specific **purpose**
- 5.3 BENCHMARK: DOCUMENTATION**  
**Document information sources**
- List resources used by title
- 5.4 BENCHMARK: RESEARCH PRODUCTS**  
**Communicate the results of research**

## **STANDARD 6: LITERATURE AND CULTURE**

**Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience**

- 6.1 BENCHMARK: LITERARY TERMINOLOGY**  
**Recognize and use literary terminology**
- Identify physical and personality traits in characters
- 6.2 BENCHMARK: READING GENRES**  
**Read a variety of literary and informational texts**
- Read, respond to, and gain meaning from a variety of literature (e.g., folk tales, legends, directions)
- 6.3 BENCHMARK: CULTURE**  
**Read to learn about culture**
- Compare tales from different cultures by character types or observation of the use of natural phenomena (e.g., seasons, constellations, land formations, animal behaviors)
- 6.4 BENCHMARK: LITERARY ANALYSIS**  
**Use a variety of strategies to understand and analyze texts**

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