First Grade Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Resources

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First grade is an important grade level for your child! Your child will make the most reading growth in this grade and will transition to reading and writing independently. Help your first grader read independently by learning phonics strategies to read one and two syllable words. Your child should be exposed to a variety of books, including books that tell stories and books that give information. Your child will become a writer in first grade as well! Help your child improve by practicing writing in complete sentences legibly with capital and lowercase letters. Your first grader will enjoy lots of encouragement and will benefit from breaking up their activities and work into smaller segments. Your child should be able to ask questions to understand and should be able to build on another’s comments to explain his or her own ideas and feelings.

First Grade Literacy Skills to Master

By the end of first grade, your child should be proficient in the skills in this list below. Library staff have paired free Library resources and activities to aid in the development of each skill. Click on any skill below to find out more: (hyperlinks to everything in blue)

- Read a text and ask and answer questions about the text.
- Retell a story and tell the central message or lesson.
- Identify the main topic and retell key details in a text.
- Describe, draw, and give details about the characters, setting, and main events in a story.
- Identify who is telling the story at different points in the book.
- Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.
- Write an organized opinion, informative, and narrative piece with support.
- Use digital tools to produce and publish writing.
- Participate in shared research and writing projects by gathering information or recalling personal experiences.

First Grade Curriculum Information for CMS Schools

CMS has adopted the EL Education K-5 Language Arts curriculum. This comprehensive literacy curriculum involves three hours per day of content-based literacy, including four eight-week learning modules that will be covered each school year.
Lexile Levels

The EL Education curriculum uses Lexile levels to indicate the complexity of the texts that will be used in each module. This can be confusing to parents and caregivers who may not be familiar with this system. Texts are assigned a Lexile level based on word difficulty and sentence complexity. While the goal is finding books that your child is interested in and excited to read, Lexile levels can be helpful in making sure they are reading literature appropriate to their ability, in terms of vocabulary and comprehension. Keep in mind that when texts are read aloud to first grade students in class, the Lexile level is usually two to three grade levels higher than what they are capable of reading independently.

Luckily, it is possible to filter books in the Library’s catalog by Lexile level, and you can learn how to do so here.

First Grade Modules and Support

Below you will find the focus and title of each of the four modules that are covered in first grade, with links to additional Library resources to support student learning for each one.

Module 1: Building Literacy in a Collaborative Classroom- Tools and Work
Module 2: What’s Up in the Sky- A Study of the Sun, Moon, and Stars
Module 3: Building Expertise through Research- Birds’ Amazing Bodies
Module 4: Contributing to the Community- Caring for Birds

Additional recommended books that are appropriate for first graders can be found here.

Additional Digital Library Resources to Extend Learning:

| Culture Grams | KidsInfoBits | PowerKnowledgeLifeScience | Tutor.com |

Additional Resources to Extend Learning (Icons for Read Charlotte, NCDPI, AND CML OneAccess page)