

Understanding the Common Core Standards

Saturday, February 1, 2014

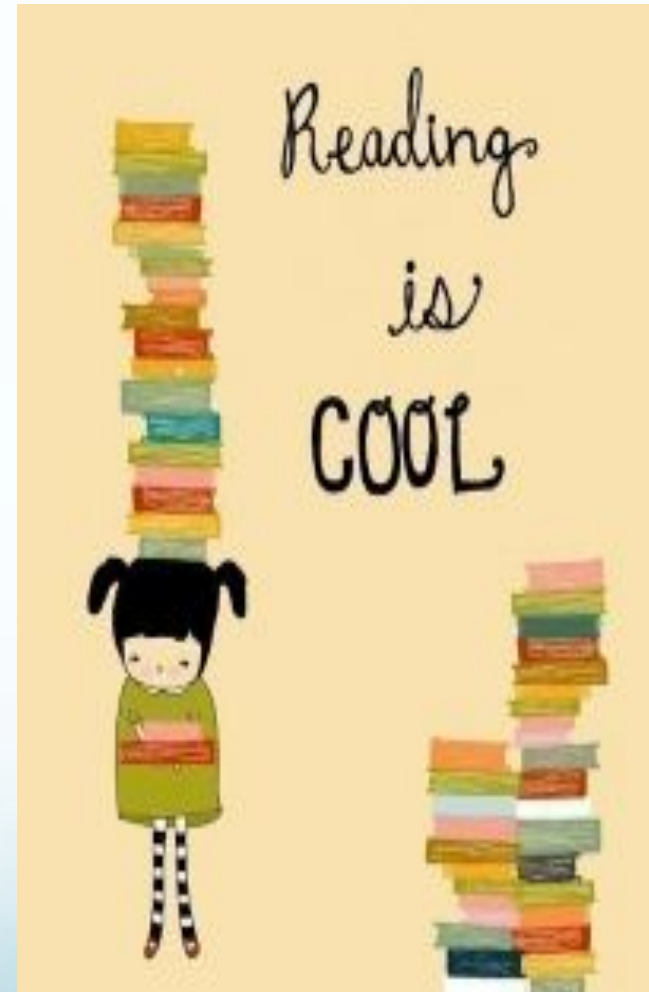
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What are the Common Core Learning Standards?

- Until now, every state had its own standards and different expectations of student performance.
- Common standards were designed to help ensure that all students receive a high quality education consistently, from school to school and state to state.
- Common Core standards provide educators and parents with clear expectations for what children should know and be able to do in each grade level P-12 and to prepare students for college and career readiness.

A Closer Look: ELA/Literacy Shifts

- Read as much non-fiction as fiction
- Learn about the world by reading
- Read more challenging material closely
- Discuss reading using evidence
- Write non-fiction using evidence
- Increase academic vocabulary



ELA/Literacy Shift 1: Read as much non-fiction as fiction

Students must...

- Read more non-fiction
- Know the ways non-fiction can be put together
- Enjoy and discuss the details of non-fiction

Parents can...

- Supply non-fiction text
- Read non-fiction texts aloud of with your child
- Have fun with non-fiction in front of them

ELA/Literacy Shift 2

Learn about the world by reading

Students must...

- Get smart in Science and Social Studies through reading
- Handle “primary source” documents
- Get smarter through text

Parents can...

- Supply series of texts on topics of interest
- Find books that explain
- Discuss non-fiction texts and the ideas within

ELA/Literacy Shift 3

Read more complex material carefully

Students must...

- Re-read
- Read material at comfort level AND work with more challenging stuff
- Unpack text
- Handle frustration and keep pushing

Parents can...

- Provide more challenging texts AND provide texts they WANT to read and can read comfortably
- Know what is grade level appropriate
- Read challenging stuff *with* them
- Show that challenging stuff is *worth* unpacking

ELA/Literacy Shift 4

Discuss reading using evidence

Students must...

- Find evidence to support their arguments
- Form judgments
- Become scholars
- Discuss what the author is “up to”

Parents can...

- Talk about text
- Demand evidence in every day discussions/ disagreements
- Read aloud or read the same book and discuss with evidence

ELA/Literacy Shift 5

Writing from Sources

Students must...

- Make arguments in writing using evidence
- Compare multiple texts in writing

Parents can...

- Encourage writing at home
- Write “books” together and use evidence/details

ELA/Literacy Shift 6

Academic Vocabulary

Students must...

- Learn the words that they can use in college and career
- Get smarter at using the “language of power”

Parents can...

- Read often and constantly with babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and children
- Read multiple books about the same topic
- Let your kids see you reading
- Talk to your children; Read to your children; Listen to our children; Sing with your children; Make up silly rhymes and word games with your children

A Closer Look: Mathematics Shifts



- Focus: learn more about less
- Build skills across grades
- Develop speed and accuracy
- Really know it, Really do it
- Use it in the real world
- Think fast AND solve problems

Mathematics Shift 1

Focus: Learn more about less

Students must...

- Spend more time on fewer concepts.

Parents can...

- Know what the priority work is for your child for their grade level
- Spend time with your child on priority work
- Ask child's teacher about their progress on priority work

Mathematics Shift 2

Skills Across Grades

Students must...

- Keep building on learning year after year

Parents can...

- Be aware of what your child struggled with last year and how that will affect learning this year

Mathematics Shift 3

Speed and Accuracy

Students must...

- Spend time practicing lots of problems on the same idea

Parents can...

- Push children to know/memorize basic facts
- Know all of the fluencies your child should have and prioritize learning of the ones they don't

Key Fluencies

Grade	Required Fluency
K	Add/subtract within 5
1	Add/subtract within 10
2	Add/subtract within 20 Add/subtract within 100 (pencil and paper)
3	Multiply/divide within 100
4	Add/subtract within 1,000 Add/subtract within 1,000,000
5	Multi-digit multiplication

Mathematics Shift 4

Know it/Do it!

Students must...

- UNDERSTAND why the math works. MAKE the math work.
- TALK about why the math works.
- PROVE that they know why and how the math works

Parents can...

- Notice whether your child REALLY knows why the answer is what it is
- Advocate for the TIME your child needs to learn key math
- Provide TIME for your child to work hard with math at home
- Get smarter in the math your child needs to know

Mathematics Shift 5

Real World

Students must...

- Apply math in real world situations
- Know which math to use for which situation

Parents can...

- Ask your child to DO the math that comes up in your daily life

Mathematics Shift 6

Think Fast/Solve Problems

- Students must...
- Be able to use core math facts FAST

AND

- Be able to apply math in the real world

- Parents can...
- Make sure your child is PRACTICING the math facts he/she struggles with
- Make sure your child is thinking about math in real life

Backpacks: What you should see

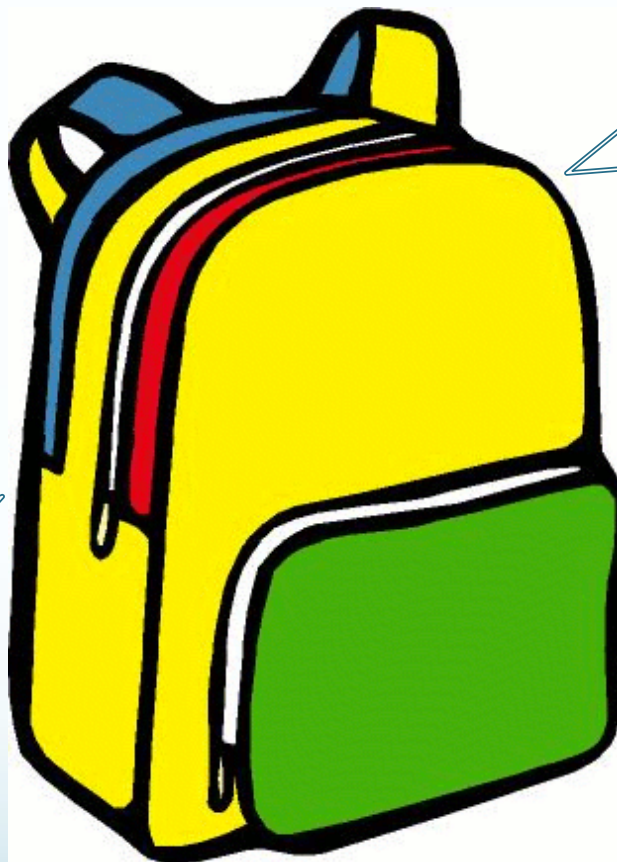
Real-world examples that makes what they're learning in English and math make more sense

Books that are both fiction *and* non-fiction

Writing assignments that require students to use *evidence* instead of *opinion*

Math homework that asks students to write out *how* they got their answer

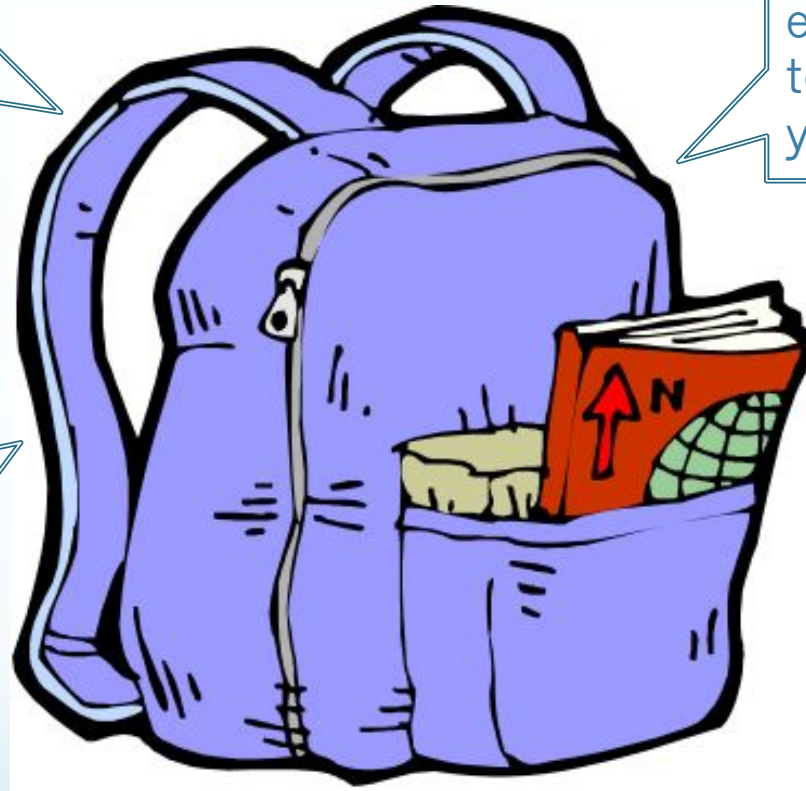
Math homework that ask students to use different methods to solve the same problem



Some questions to ask your child

Did you talk about anything you read in class today? Did you use evidence when you talked about what you read?

Did you learn any new words in class today? What do they mean? How do you spell them?



How did you use evidence in school today? Where did you get it?

How often did you use math today? How did you use it?

What works best?

