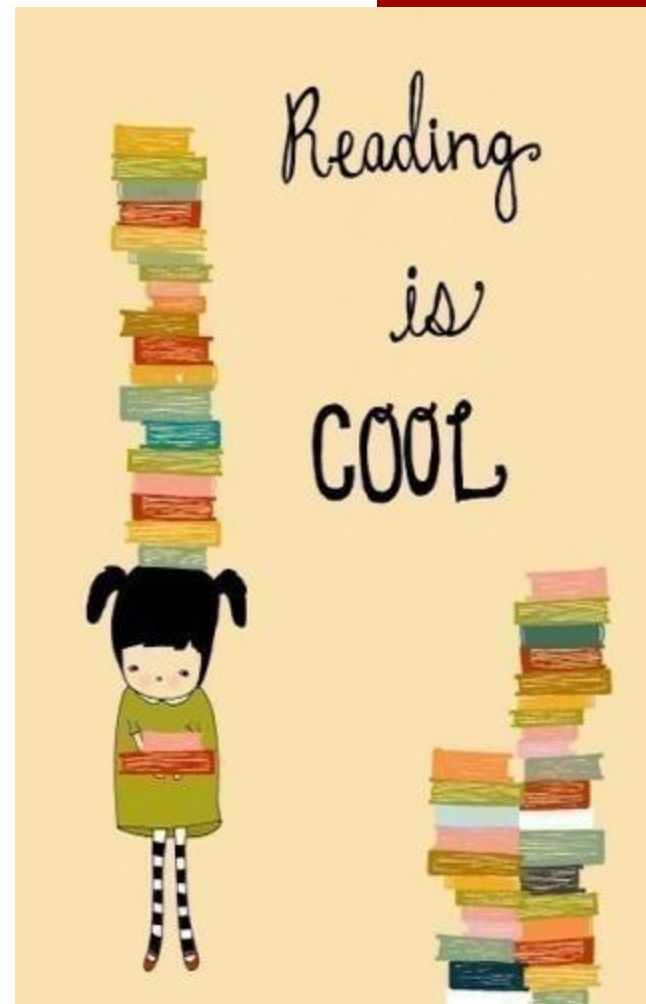


Common Core State Standards What Can Families Do To Help?



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 Shift #1:

Read as much non-fiction as fiction

Students **MUST**

- Read more **non-fiction**
- Understand how non-fiction is written and put together
- **Enjoy** and discuss the details of non-fiction

Parents **SHOULD**

- Supply non-fiction texts to read
- Read non-fiction books **aloud or with** your child
- Have **fun** with non-fiction in front of your children

ELA Shift #2:

Learn about the world by reading

Students **MUST**

- Learn more about Science and Social Studies through reading
- Use “primary source” documents
- Get smarter through the use of texts

Parents **SHOULD**

- Supply texts on topics that interest your child
- Find books that explain how things work and why
- Discuss non-fiction texts and their ideas

ELA Shift #3:

Read more complex material carefully

Students MUST

- Re-read
- Read books at their comfort level *and* more challenging texts
- Not just read, comprehend
- Handle frustration and keep pushing to improve

Parents SHOULD

- Provide more challenging texts their children want to read *in addition to* books they can read easily
- Know what is grade level appropriate
- Read challenging books with your child
- Show that challenging books are worth reading

ELA Shift #4:

Discuss reading using evidence

Students **MUST**

- Find evidence to support their arguments
- Form judgments and opinions
- Become scholars
- Discuss what the author is thinking
- Make predictions

Parents **SHOULD**

- Talk about texts
- Demand evidence in everyday discussions, debates and disagreements
- Read aloud or read the same book as your child and discuss with evidence

ELA Shift #5: Write from sources

Students **MUST**

- Make arguments in writing using evidence
- Compare multiple texts in writing
- Learn to write well

Parents **SHOULD**

- Encourage writing at home
- Write “books” together using evidence and details
- Review samples of student writing:
http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_C.pdf

ELA Shift #6:

Build an academic vocabulary

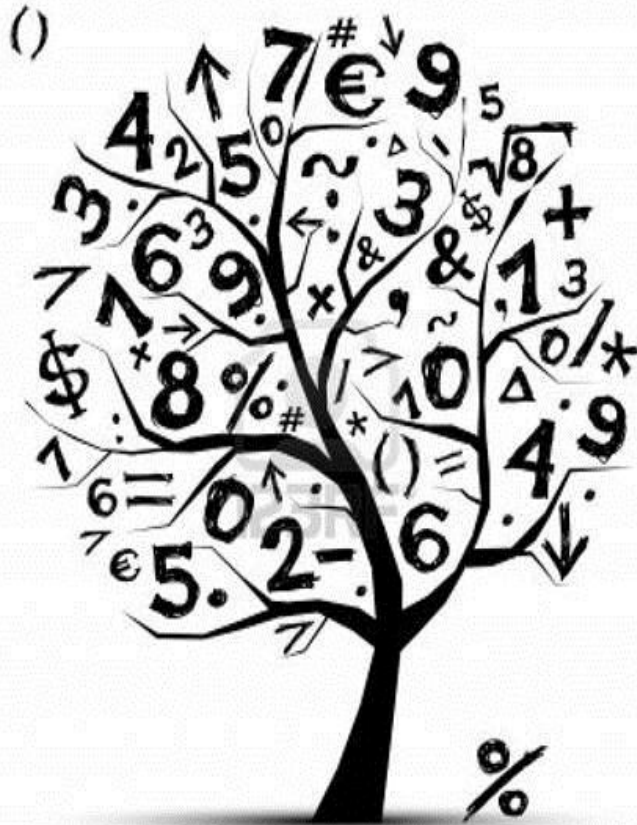
Students **MUST**

- Learn the words they will need to use in college and career
- Get smarter at using the “language of power”

Parents **SHOULD**

- Read often and constantly with young children
- Read multiple books about the same topic
- Let your children see you reading
- Talk to your children, read to them, listen to them, sing with them, make up silly rhymes and word games

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

Math Shift #1: Focus: Learn more about less

Students **MUST**

- Keep building on learning year after year

Parents **SHOULD**

- Be aware of what your child struggled with last year and how that will affect ongoing learning
- Converse with your child's teacher to monitor progress and ensure that support is given for "gap" skills.

Math Shift #2: Learn skills across grades

Students **MUST**

- Spend more time on fewer concepts
- Go more in-depth on each one

Parents **SHOULD**

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

Math Shift #3: Develop speed and accuracy

Students **MUST**

- Spend time practicing by doing lots of problems on the same idea

Parents **SHOULD**

- Push children to know, understand and memorize basic math facts
- Know all of the fluencies your child should have; prioritize learning of the ones they still find difficult

Math Shift #4: Really know it, really do it

Students **MUST**

- Make the math work, and understand why it does
- Talk about why the math works
- Prove that they know why and how the math works

Parents **SHOULD**

- Notice whether your child really knows why the answer is what it is
- Advocate for the time your child needs to learn key math skills
- Provide time for your child to work at math skills at home
- Get smarter in the math your child needs to know

Math Shift #5: Use it in the real world

Students **MUST**

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

Parents **SHOULD**

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

Math Shift #6:

Think fast and solve problems

Students **MUST**

- Be able to use core math facts quickly
- Be able to apply math in the real world

Parents **SHOULD**

- Notice your child's strengths and weaknesses in math
- Make sure your child practices the math facts that prove most difficult
- Make sure your child thinks about math in real life

Backpacks: What you should see

Real-world examples that makes what students learn in English and math make more sense

Books that are both fiction *and* non-fiction



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

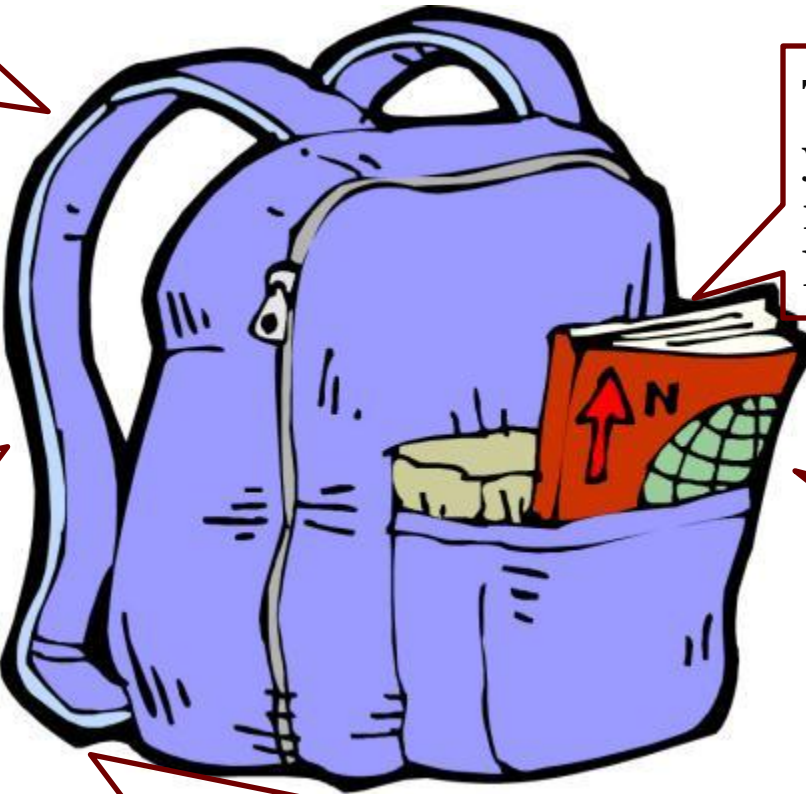
Writing assignments that require students to use *evidence* instead of opinion

Math homework that asks 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 talk about what you read?

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



Tell me something you learned in your reading. How did you learn it?

How did you use math today? Can you show me an example?

What math problems did you do today? How did you get your answer?