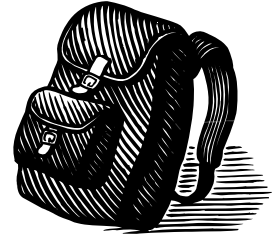


# Parent's Backpack Guide to Common Core State Standards



## FOR PREKINDERGARTEN–5TH GRADE: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS

### Why Are the Common Core State Standards Important?

The Common Core State Standards are important because they will help all children – no matter who they are – learn the same skills. They create clear expectations for what your child should know and be able to do in key areas: **reading, writing, speaking and listening, language and mathematics**. If you know what these expectations are, then you can work with the teacher and help your child prepare.

### English Language Arts (ELA)

The new Common Core State Standards make several important changes to current standards. These changes are called shifts. The chart below shows what these shifts change, what you might see in your child's backpack and what you can do to help your child. If your child's assignments do not reflect the shifts, then talk to your child's teacher.

What's Shifting?	What to Look for in the Backpack?	What Can You Do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child will now <b>read more non-fiction</b> in each grade level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for your kids to have more reading assignments based on real-life events, such as biographies, articles and historical stories.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read non-fiction books with your children. Find ways to make reading fun and exciting.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading more non-fiction texts will help your child <b>learn about the world through reading</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for your kids to bring home more fact-based books about the world. For instance, your 1<sup>st</sup> Grader or Kindergartener might read Clyde Robert Bulla's <i>A Tree is a Plant</i>. This book lets students read and learn about science.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Know what non-fiction books are grade-level appropriate and make sure your children have access to such books.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child will <b>read challenging texts very closely</b>, so they can make sense of what they read and draw their own conclusions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your kids will have reading and writing assignments that might ask them to retell or write about key parts of a story or book. For example, your 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Grader might be asked to read aloud Faith D'Aluisio's non-fiction book titled <i>What the World Eats</i> and retell facts from the story.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide more challenging texts for your kids to read. Show them how to dig deeper into difficult pieces.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When it comes to writing or retelling a story, your child will <b>use "evidence" gathered from the text to support what they say</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for written assignments that ask your child to draw on concrete examples from the text that serve as evidence. Evidence means examples from the book that your child will use to support a response or conclusion. This is different from the opinion questions that have been used in the past.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask your child to provide evidence in everyday discussions and disagreements.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child will <b>learn how to write from what they read</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for writing assignments that ask your child to make arguments in writing using evidence. For 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, this might mean reading and writing about <i>The Kids Guide to Money</i>, a non-fictional book by Steve Otfinoski.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage writing at home. Write together using evidence and details.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child will <b>have an increased academic vocabulary</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for assignments that stretch your child's vocabulary and teach them that "language is</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read often to babies, toddlers, preschoolers and children.</li> </ul>

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