

## Helping My 3<sup>rd</sup> Grader Succeed in Reading

3<sup>rd</sup> Graders are reading to learn, *not* learning to read! The Basic Foundations of reading from earlier grades are now being applied to more, complex tasks. 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders are becoming better and more independent readers. Third grade reading work focuses on teaching kids how to think and talk about what they read in deeper and more detailed ways. Students read longer texts, and specifically, most read chapter, fiction books. Many reading lessons include writing about and talking about texts to think about their meanings, lessons, and important ideas. Third graders are also encouraged to develop their own points of views about books and texts that they read, talking about their ideas about a text or characters. As 3<sup>rd</sup> graders read more, they become more fluent readers and learn to read harder and more complex words. In addition, students learn the definition and pronunciation of complex words they encounter. They must use context clues from the text to determine word meaning, and they must “prove” their answers with details from the text.

### **In order to build reading skills, ask your 3<sup>rd</sup> grader:**

- What big words did you read? What do they mean? How do you know?
- How can you chunk that word into parts to figure out how to read the word?
- What clues did you read in the passage that can help you figure out what that word means?
- What is your favorite part of the story or passage? Read it to me. \*Determine if your child is using fluency to read which includes the correct pacing- watch out for “robot” reading!
- What is the story about? Can you tell me more?
- What did the character do to solve the problem? Can you find an example from the text to support your answer?
- What was the author’s purpose for writing this story? Why do you think that?
- What type of book is this? Answers may include fiction (not real), nonfiction (true or real), realistic fiction, historical fiction, fantasy, science fiction, poetry, or drama.
- What do you think about what the character did? Why do you feel that way?
- Did you enjoy the story? Why or why not? What could the author have done differently?

## Free Resources for Reading

*The best and safest options for reading materials are:*

**Plain Elementary School Library-** Students can check out two books

**Greenville County Library-** Unlimited, free check out

\*Your child will feel GREAT when they get their very OWN library card!

**EPIC books-** We use this at school. You can purchase a home license at

<https://www.getepic.com/>

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-tips-parents-third-graders>

<https://www.mobymax.com/> (A great resource with learning activities to get kids back on track- you can even monitor your child's progress)

<https://www.funbrain.com/books> (A great resource with a variety of learning activities)

**\*Please always monitor what your child does online. These sites are online and previewed only, for the purpose of locating free materials.**

### Free Books Online

<https://www.wilbooks.com/free-resources-free-online-books-third-grade>

<http://www.magickeys.com/books/>

<https://www.storyjumper.com/book/search>

<https://www.storylineonline.net/>

**To BEST help your third graders, they need to be reading daily, not just listening! They need to be able to tell you about what they are reading, make personal connections, and use text details to support what they say or think.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Graders are Reading to Learn!**