

Second Grade

Language Arts, Reading, Creativity, and Geography

(Recommended for ages 7 - 10, depending on child's reading level. Child should be confidently reading most consonant - vowel - consonant words like "cat" and "man." They should be comfortable with beginning and ending blends like "gl-" and "-st." They should be able to decode basic silent e words like "gate." They should recognize some frequently-occurring words: the, they, them, and, he, she, am, etc. If they do not yet meet these guidelines, it may be best to begin with Blossom and Root First Grade's language arts program.)

- Tall tales, trickster tales, and stories of adventure
- Practicing printing with copywork selections
- Vowel digraphs: ai, ay, ea, ee, oa, ow, oy, oi, aw, au, ou
- Hard and soft C and G
- Compound words
- Syllables: open vs. closed, syllable division
- Common suffixes: -ing, -est, -ful, -ness, -ed
- More uses for silent e
- Words that end in "ey" and "ie"
- Three-letter blends
- The four sounds of "u"
- R-controlled vowels
- The sound of /ah/
- Contractions
- Reading short books
- Reading poetry
- Narrating back simple story lines orally, through play, and / or with drawings
- Exploring literature weekly through a variety of creative, hands-on activities and **optional** journaling prompts
- **Optional** projects that integrate geography. Topics covered include locating the setting of various tall tales and trickster tales on a map, continents, modes of transportation, fictional cartography (map-making), absolute and relative location, human characteristics / region, physical characteristics / region, movement of goods / ideas / people, interactions between humans and the environment, researching the geography of your child's home, parts of a river, parts of a mountain, parts of a cave, and parts of a forest.
- *NEW* **Optional** creative extension projects that allow children to dive deeper into creative exploration

*The Creative Extensions Guide is a new addition to our language arts curriculum, beginning in second grade and includes seven project prompts / tutorials. **These projects are completely optional**, but are a wonderful way for your child to explore new forms of creative expression, inspired by the books we read in the curriculum. Projects include: mixed media art with photographs, wet-felted play mats for storytelling, shadowbox scenes, creating and using shadow puppets, two-dimensional needle-felting, window transparencies, and block printing.*

Science (appropriate for ages 5 - 12)

- The importance of plants to life on Earth
- Plant anatomy and needs
- The evolution of plants
- Exploring parts of a plant: roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruit, seeds
- Pollinators
- Exploring tree rings and bark
- Plant life cycles
- Exploring a variety of plants: ferns, moss, cone-bearing plants, flowering plants, aquatic plants, grasses and rushes, cacti and other succulents, carnivorous plants
- Evergreen vs. deciduous trees
- How plants defend themselves
- Unique adaptations and plant partnerships
- The plants we eat: fruits, vegetables, grains, grasses, nuts, and seeds
- Farming and gardening
- Foraging
- Medicinal plants / herbs
- Poisonous plants
- Products made from plants
- Plants as homes for animals
- Fungi: mushrooms, yeast, mold
- Lichen
- Introduction to world biomes

Nature Study (appropriate for ages 5 - 12)

- Botanical illustration and nature journaling
- Creating a window garden
- Creating terrariums
- Pressing and preserving flowers, leaves, and more
- How to use a nature guide to identify plants
- Making natural dyes
- Propagation with a variety of plants, including succulents
- Identifying common trees in your area
- Foraging and herb-gardening
- Cooking with plants
- Practical skills with plants: making cordage, simple shelters, whittling, etc.
- Art and creativity with plants
- Planting a living book nook
- And so much more!

History

- Beginning in first grade, we do not include a history curriculum with our elementary year packages.
- History curriculum for the elementary years is currently in development, and the first units will be available to purchase separately from each year's package beginning in late 2019 / early 2020.

Exploring the Math in Art (Elementary Arts Curriculum, appropriate for ages 5 - 12)

- Exploring artistic expression through weekly art prompts, using a variety of materials
- Mindful attention when looking at works of art
- Discussing observations of works of art
- Exploring math concepts through a variety of works of art
- Exploring a variety of art forms

Book List for Second Grade

*Please note: the following list contains only the **required or highly recommended** books for our second grade curriculum. We include extensive lists of further recommended books in the curriculum, which a parent may choose to use or omit at their own discretion, according to their preferences.*

Part One: Read-Alouds that Correspond with our Language Arts Curriculum

- The following tall tales, any edition is fine: Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, Johnny Appleseed, John Henry
- *Thunder Rose* by Jerdine Nolen
- *Fortunately, the Milk* by Neil Gaiman
- *Trickster Tales: Forty Folk Stories from Around the World* by Josepha Sherman
- *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
- *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum (most recent reprints are simply titled *The Wizard of Oz*)
- *The Hobbit, or There and Back Again* by J. R. R. Tolkien
- *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin
- We also recommend that your child reads independently from level-appropriate books for at least 10 minutes on most days at this level. We do provide a recommended list of books in the curriculum for you to choose from.

Part Two: Reference Books that Correspond with our Science Curriculum

- *Botanicum: Welcome to the Museum* by Kathy Willis (not required, but highly recommended for visual learners —used throughout the full year)
- *DK Eyewitness: Plants* (not required, but highly recommended—used throughout most of the year)
- *DK Eyewitness: Trees* (not required, but highly recommended—used frequently during the first half of the year)
- *Nature Anatomy: The Curious Parts and Pieces of the Natural World* and *Farm Anatomy: The Curious Parts and Pieces of Country Life* by Julia Rothman (not required, but highly recommended—used frequently throughout most of the year)

The following books are not required, but they are recommended, and are only used for approximately one week each. Therefore, they would be appropriate selections for library use.

- *Living Sunlight: How Plants Bring the Earth to Life* by Molly Bang and Penny Chisholm
- *Ocean Sunlight: How Tiny Plants Feed the Seas* by Molly Bang and Penny Chisholm