

FOURTH GRADE
COURSE DESCRIPTION
Grade 4; one-year course

FOURTH GRADE

Each competency and objective assumes the student has mastered the competencies and objectives in third grade. New skills and objectives are bold-faced throughout the K-8 portion of the document; however, teachers should review previously taught skills and objectives with a focus on increasing complexity. The Mississippi Curriculum Test, 2nd Edition (MCT2) for fourth grade is based on the objectives found in the framework. At least fifty percent (50%) of the test items on the MCT2 must match the depth-of-knowledge level assigned to that objective.

The term "text," as it is used throughout the Language Arts Framework, is defined as "a segment of spoken or written language available for description or analysis." For the purposes of this document, text may include written materials, teacher read or taped passages, visual images, or film.

Fourth graders should read accurately instructional level materials (texts in which no more than approximately 1 in 10 words are difficult for the reader) with an appropriate reading rate. (A fourth grader should read between 115 and 140 words per minute by the end of fourth grade.)

Reading rates below 150 minutes might include either oral reading or silent reading. Because ordinary speech does not typically exceed 150 words per minute, rates above 150 minutes should be considered silent reading rates.

While competencies for grades 4 - 8 remain identical, objectives require an extension of knowledge and broader, deeper application of skills. A critical component at each grade level is text complexity. Text complexity is indicated by such elements as sophistication of language, content, and syntax. As students move from grade four to grade eight, texts should require a greater cognitive involvement by the student in order for the student to appreciate and comprehend the meaning and beauty inherent in language.

In fourth grade, students are presented with a wide, rich variety of texts that are read to, listened to, read by, or viewed by students and then discussed. Fourth grade students are expected to engage actively in language activities involving text as they continue to grow as fluent readers and writers.

New language added to objectives or numbered items is printed in bold for grades 4 - 8.