

# 4th Grade - Curriculum Overview

Students explore the topic of a personal journey & westward expansion as they read rich, quality literature.

Unit 4.1	 <p><b>Read-Aloud Anchor Text</b> Realistic Fiction, <i>Shiloh</i></p> <p><b>Key Question:</b> <i>What is the difference between right and wrong?</i></p>	<p><b>Informational Non-Fiction:</b> Articles about animal abuse, how to report animal abuse, and animal abuse law.</p> <p><b>Realistic Fiction</b> <b>Book Club Texts:</b> <i>Shoeshine Girl</i> <i>Because of Winn-Dixie</i> <i>How to Steal a Dog</i></p>	<p><b>Expository Writing</b> Retell Summaries Turning Point Summaries Synthesis Summaries <b>Opinion/Persuasive</b> Evaluations Opinion Persuasive Essay</p>	<p><b>Special Features</b> Character Belief Author's Perspective Cause &amp; Effect Supporting One's Opinion</p>
Unit 4.2	 <p><b>Read-Aloud Anchor Text</b> Epic Fantasy, <i>The Castle in the Attic</i></p> <p><b>Key Questions:</b> <i>What does it mean to follow the Code of Chivalry?</i></p>	<p><b>Informational Non-Fiction:</b> Articles about knights and the legend of King Arthur.</p> <p><b>Epic Fantasy</b> <b>Book Club Texts:</b> <i>The Weeping Werewolf</i> <i>The Dragonslayers</i> <i>Into the Land of the Unicorns</i></p>	<p><b>Expository Writing</b> Retell Summaries Turning Point Summaries Synthesis Summaries Compare &amp; Contrast Literary Essay <b>Opinion/Persuasive</b> Evaluation Opinion</p>	<p><b>Special Features</b> Complex Plot Foreshadowing Compare &amp; Contrast Cause &amp; Effect Supporting One's Opinion</p>
Unit 4.3	 <p><b>Read-Aloud Anchor Text</b> Non-Fiction Biography, <i>Streams to the River, River to the Sea</i></p> <p><b>Key Questions:</b> <i>Why might Sacagawea have chosen to continue on the journey? Is Scott O'Dell's book historically accurate?</i></p>	<p><b>Informational Non-Fiction:</b> Articles, maps, videos and timelines about the Louisiana Purchase, The Corps of Discovery, and Native Americans.</p> <p><b>Information Non-Fiction</b> <b>Book Club Text:</b> <i>Going Along with Lewis &amp; Clark</i></p>	<p><b>Expository Writing</b> Retell Summaries Turning Point Summaries Synthesis Summaries Compare &amp; Contrast <b>Opinion/Persuasive</b> Evaluation Opinions Opinion Essay</p>	<p><b>Special Features</b> Primary Documents Symbolism Poetry Cause &amp; Effect Compare &amp; Contrast Supporting One's Opinion Connecting Past to Present</p>
Unit 4.4	 <p><b>Read-Aloud Anchor Text</b> Historical Non-fiction, <i>Children of the Gold Rush</i></p> <p><b>Key Questions:</b> <i>What does it take to be a pioneer? What is the pioneering spirit?</i></p>	<p><b>Informational Non-Fiction:</b> Articles, maps, videos, timelines, and primary documents about the Klondike Gold Rush.</p> <p><b>Historical Fiction</b> <b>Book Club Texts:</b> <i>The Year of Miss Agnes</i> <i>Riding Freedom</i> <i>The Sign of the Beaver</i></p>	<p><b>Expository Writing</b> Retell Summaries Turning Point Summaries Synthesis Summaries Compare &amp; Contrast Literary Essay <b>Opinion/Persuasive</b> Evaluation</p>	<p><b>Special Features</b> Primary Documents Text Features Symbolism Cause &amp; Effect Compare &amp; Contrast Connecting Past to Present</p>
Unit 4.5	 <p><b>Read-Aloud Anchor Text</b> Historical Fiction, <i>Aureore of the Yukon</i></p> <p><b>Key Questions:</b> <i>How do advancements in transportation give people new opportunities?</i></p>	<p><b>Informational Nonfiction:</b> Articles, maps, videos, and primary documents about the Klondike Gold Rush, and trains—past, present, and future.</p> <p><b>Non-Fiction</b> <b>Book Club Text:</b> <i>The Kids' Book of Canada's Railway</i></p>	<p><b>Expository Writing</b> Retell Summaries Turning Point Summaries Synthesis Summaries <b>Opinion/Persuasive</b> Evaluation Formal Essay (Research)</p>	<p><b>Special Features</b> Primary Documents Research Connecting Past to Present, Present to Future</p>

## Strategies taught explicitly across the 4th grade curriculum:

### Literary Strategies:

- Narrative text structure & features
- Character analysis
- Author's craft
- Theme/author's message

### Non-Fiction Strategies:

- Non-fiction text structure & features
- Main Idea and details
- Author's purpose
- Research and evaluation of sources

### Instructional Strategies:

- Discussion and collaboration
- Note taking and graphic organizers
- Drawing on prior knowledge
- Writing in response to reading
- Scaffolding complex text
- Differentiating instruction for diverse learners