

# GSDA Core Curriculum Writing Core Resources

## 1. Draw... Then Write (Grades K-2)

Each page has a short drawing lesson to make a simple picture - most are animals. Then the child answers the questions: Who or What? Did what? Where? When? And Why?

## 2. The How to Write Book (Grades 3-6)

Step by step guide to writing letters, essays, poetry, reports, and stories.

## 3. Writing to Explain, Persuade, & Inform Series (Grades 3-6)

Easy to use reproducible series of lessons that teaches the structure of the three basic forms of writing for intermediate students.

## 4. Writing Strands (Grades 2-12)

The four strands of writing (argumentative, explanatory, creative and report) are explained, modeled, and practiced throughout the 7 levels of Writing Strands, Creating Fiction and Writing Exposition.

## 5. Writing Teacher's Handbook Series (Grades 4-6)

Each resource book in this series describes detailed lessons for each writing domain along with basic writing skills, including editing. The lessons in each book include actual writing samples from upper-grade students. At the end of each section is a reproducible rubric for evaluating student work. Published by Creative Teaching Press.

- Expressive Writing: Lessons include Caption, Dialogue, Journal, Character Sketch, Quatrain, Limerick, Haiku, and Diamante.
- Informative Writing: Lessons include News Segment, News Article, Travel Brochure, Interview, Survey, and How-To.
- Narrative Writing: Lessons include Autobiographical Incident, Ballad, Biographical Sketch, Short Story, Fable, Fairy Tale, and Tall Tale.
- Persuasive Writing: Lessons include Fiction Book Review, Film Review, Advertisement, Radio/Television Commercial, Persuasive Essay, Campaign Speech, and Persuasive Letter.

## 6. Complete Writing Lessons for the Primary Grades

Each lesson in this book begins with a high interest activity that will motivate writers. Then the lesson shows you, the teacher, how to help students collect and organize ideas, write

a rough draft, edit and revise written material, work on specific writing skills, and share the finished product. The emphasis is on the writing process.

### 7. Complete Writing Lessons for the Middle Grades

Each lesson in this book begins with a high interest activity that will motivate writers. Then the lesson shows you, the teacher, how to help students collect and organize ideas, write a rough draft, edit and revise written material, work on specific writing skills, and share the finished product. The emphasis is on the writing process.

### 8. Glencoe - Writer's Choice (Grades 9-12)

Writer's Choice for grades 9-12 is the fully integrated grammar and composition program that helps students develop and enhance real-world skills needed for writing in the classroom and in their lives—personally and professionally, regardless of their career paths, [www.glencoe.com](http://www.glencoe.com) is an excellent resource for additional information and student resources. Grammar & Composition is available for additional grammar and writing reinforcement.

### 9. Zaner-Bloser Strategies for Writing (Grades K-8)

Strategies for Writing is a rubric-based program that aims to help students improve their writing by carefully walking them through the writing process through a Model-Practice-Apply instructional plan. Students are provided with clear guidelines and expectations for their writing, so they know what to do to succeed. The program helps students to systematically and confidently plan and organize their writing in five critical modes: narrative, descriptive, expository, persuasive and test writing. Grammar is taught in conjunction with writing, so students can learn how to best apply grammar to writing. Workbooks are consumable.

Levels: K, A(1), B(2), C(3), D(4), E(5), F(6), G(7), H(8)

# Vocabulary Core Resources

## 1. Vocabulary for Achievement (Grades 6-12)

Vocabulary for Achievement is a systematic approach to vocabulary development to help students understand and use words effectively. This program includes context sentences for related forms of vocabulary words and reading passages beginning with the Introductory Course for grade 6.

## 2. Wordly Wise (Grades K-12)

This is a vocabulary program teaching Latin and Greek roots from grade K through 12. It includes reading comprehension, critical thinking, using context clues and much more.

# Spelling Core Resources

## 1. Target Spelling (Grades 1-6)

Target Spelling is a research-based spelling alternative for struggling readers. It gives students real world practice linking spelling and word meaning.

180=grades 2-5

360=grades 2-6

540=grades 3-7

780=grades 4-8

1020=grades 5-9

1260=grades 6 and up

## 2. Spectrum Spelling (Grades 1-6)

The books in this series provide systematic instruction and practice spelling. It teaches spelling strategies, spelling patterns and spelling related to meaning and context.

## 3. Spelling Workout (Grades 1-8)

This program engages students in cross-curricular reading passages that develop key spelling words. It masters spelling words through riddles, puzzles, and interactive activities. It also reviews and reinforces what students have learned throughout, and puts students' word power to the test with final reviews in standardized test format.

# Grammar Core Resources

## 1. Steck-Vaughn Language Exercises (Grades 1-8)

Language Exercises focuses students on the six most critical areas of language: vocabulary, sentences, grammar and usage, capitalization and punctuation, composition, and readiness/study skills. Unit reviews, unit tests, and a final review allow for regular assessment. Books A-H and Review are available.

## 2. ELP Grammar Practice Handbooks (Grades 2-7)

Student-friendly mini workbooks teaching the science of language through short daily lessons. Books A-F are available.

## 3. Editor In Chief Series (Grades 6-8)

Sharpen language mechanics and thinking skills through illustrated high-interest story activities. Students develop a basic understanding of the rules of grammar and mechanics in context and exercise their critical thinking abilities by identifying content errors. Book A (book 1 and 2) covers grades 4-5, Book B (book 1 and 2) covers grades 6-7, book C (book 1 and 2) covers grades 8 and up. Critical Thinking Press publishes this.

# Handwriting Resources

## 1. *Cursive Connections (reproducible)*

Emphasizes letter connections and is designed to build fluency using letter drill and practice. Written especially for homeschoolers.

## 2. *Daily Handwriting Practice - Evan-Moor (reproducible)*

Keep handwriting legible with focused practice. Daily Handwriting Practice provides a manageable half page of practice for every day of a 36-week school year. Students write letters, words, and sentences about a variety of content area topics. Handwriting styles available include Traditional Manuscript, Traditional Cursive, Modern Manuscript, and Contemporary Cursive.

## 3. *Italic Handwriting Series (K-6th+)*

This is a non-reproducible workbook published by Getty & Dubay. It introduces the natural way to write, is fun to learn and easy to do! Book A - Basic Italic, Book B - Basic Italic, Book C - Basic Italic & Introduction to Cursive, Book D - Basic & Cursive, Book E - Basic & Cursive, Book F - Basic & Cursive, and Book G - Basic & Cursive.

## 4. *Handwriting - Basic Skills Series Instructional Fair (Grades 1-5) (reproducible)*

The writing activities in this book provide excellent practice in recognizing and forming upper- and lower-case letters and in relating the letters to their sounds. Your students will learn to write the letters of the alphabet, as well as basic vocabulary words such as colors, days of the week, shapes, and more. Handwriting styles available include Modern Manuscript and Traditional Cursive.

## 5. *Let's Write Manuscript Book 1 -Haves (Grades 1-2) (reproducible)*

Provides an easy and effective way of learning to write simple sentences while practicing the correct formation and proper line placement of both capital and small manuscript letters. Teacher's Guide.

# Phonics Core Resources

## 1. Spectrum Phonics (Grades K-6)

The program combines four important skill strands - phonics, structural analysis, vocabulary, and dictionary skills - so your students build the skills they need to become better readers.

## 2. Steck-Vaughn First-Time Phonics (Grades K-2)

Each skill-specific title provides a variety of multisensory activities that appeal to all learning styles. Titles include Readiness Skills, The Alphabet, Consonants, More Consonants, Short Vowels, and Long Vowels.

## 3. Explode the Code (Grades K-4)

A supplementary program for beginning readers, this program helps students read by familiarizing them with the sounds of letters. This is a student-centered format encouraging independent work. Students practice writing, reading, matching, spelling, and copying sounds and words.

## 4. Spanish instruction – Escribir Para Leer (Writing to Read) (K – 4)

Carefully paced Activity Books designed to build phonemic awareness for grades K – 4 develop literacy through phonics, decoding, spelling, handwriting, grammar and creative writing activities that practice, reinforce, and extend language skills.

## 5. Spanish instruction – Ortografía (K – 4)

The Activity Books designed to foster phonemic awareness for grades K – 4 build phonemic awareness/phonics skills through fun crossword puzzles, word-picture matching, word search puzzles and many more high-interest activities. The full-color Activity Books (levels A – D) also help students develop spelling skills through activities focusing on phonemic patterns, vocabulary concepts, usage and syntax.

## 6. Rocket Phonics (EAK – 2)

This program teaches the essential elements of Reading First – Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Comprehension. Lessons include games that teach the 36-member ITA, riddles, jokes and short stories.

# Reading Core Resources

## 1. Little Red Readers (Grades K-2)

Kid-friendly program features fun-to-read books at 5 different levels so children can gradually progress from very short, predictable sentences to longer text with more advanced vocabulary. Comes with comprehension and vocabulary practice.

## 2. Sing, Spell, Read and Write Level 1 (Grades K-2)

This program is recommended for ages 5-8. You teach five complete subjects in one unified approach: reading, writing, phonics, spelling and speaking. Songs and games bring excitement and motivation to learning and the step-by-step method ensures success.

## 3. Hooked on Phonics Level 1-5 (Beginning readers)

Based on a proven method for learning reading skills - phonics. Music and flash cards help make learning phonics skills loads of fun. Includes an easy-to-follow step-by-step guide through each lesson.

## 4. Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons (Grades K-2)

Step by step easy to use introduction of DISTAR alphabet in daily 20-minute lessons.

## 5. Phonics Practice Readers (Grades K-2)

This series develops important phonetic skills while building students' reading confidence. Each phonetic reader set contains ten different 8-page readers that cover one basic area in phonics. Includes workbook activities that help reinforce newly learned skills. Modern Curriculum Press.

## 6. Steck-Vaughn Phonics Readers (Grades K-2)

Introduce children to phonics with short, easy-to-read stories they won't be able to put down. This series consists of 40 books. Each set includes storybooks plus photo-illustrated books about real-life topics.

## 7. Dr. Maggie's Phonics Readers (Grades K-2)

A series of 24 stories rooted in current phonics research. Teacher's guide includes a complete lesson plan for each reader, assessment tools, and skill-oriented activities. Creative Teaching Press publishes this.

### 8. Hampton Brown Avenues (Grades K-5)

This all inclusive standards based language arts program addresses reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary all in one curriculum. It includes a reader for the student filled with short stories for the teacher to teach reading comprehension and literary elements. There are connections to grade level content in social studies and science, as well multi-level writing supports throughout. For high level readers, it is recommended to use this program for instruction and have the student read novels at his/her reading level in addition to using Avenues.

### 8. Houghton Mifflin (Grades K-6)

This all inclusive standards based language arts program addresses reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary all in one curriculum. It includes a reader for the student filled with short stories for the teacher to teach reading comprehension and literary elements. Parents may access the TE on site only and receive copied lesson plans to address each theme in the program.

### 9. Read Naturally (Grades 3-8)

Series of easy to read stories for struggling upper grade readers. Ideal for helping to build fluency and confidence.

### 10. Literature Units Grades (2-12)

Literature based novel units with extensive title list. Activities include comprehension questions, quizzes, and response prompts. A variety of titles are available.

### 11. Read for Real

Provides direct and explicit strategy instruction for reading nonfiction. The instruction model teaches comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency through on-level content-area reading. Each level includes six units that can be taught in any order. Each unit has three nonfiction reading selections for students to learn, practice, and apply the unit strategies. Levels/Grades: A/3rd, B/4th, C/5th, D/6th, E/7th, F/8<sup>th</sup>

### 12. Elements of Literature (Grades 6-8)

The program provides a thoughtfully selected, diverse mix of familiar classics and contemporary voices. Collections of poems, short stories and non-fiction encourage students to enter into a meaningful dialogue with the ideas and themes of literature. Grades 6, 7 and 8 are organized in thematic collections, each of which includes a variety of genres.

### 13. Glencoe - Literature: The Reader's Choice (Grades 9-12)

The Glencoe Literature Program brings relevance, insight, and excitement to the study of literature. Designed to support the way you teach — and your students learn, this comprehensive program features: A powerful blend of classic and contemporary literature to

engage and motivate students, integrated reading, writing and language arts skills instruction to address curriculum demands, a full range of assessment tools designed for flexibility and ease of use and use of the Internet through our website: [www.glencoe.com](http://www.glencoe.com) Books include *Course 4, Courses, World Literature, British Literature, and American Literature. Also available in Spanish.*

#### 14. Glencoe - Literature Library (Grades 7-12)

These books allow you to extend the study of literature to your choice of full-length novels, novellas, plays, and works of nonfiction. Each *Glencoe Literature Library* volume consists of at least one complete work accompanied by several related readings from a broad range of genres, such as short stories, poems, essays, and informational articles. Includes a study guide for each book.

#### 15. Steck-Vaughn Connections Reading (High School)

Give low-level readers struggling in content areas a second chance. Written at reading levels 5-8, this series offers subject-specific titles in all content areas. Designed for independent use, *Connections* is truly a self-directed program. With its low reading level and straightforward directions, learners measure their own progress with pretests and posttests. Interpretive correlation charts direct learners to the precise pages for remedial instruction.

#### Spanish instruction – Serie Siglo XXI: Lenguaje y Comunicacion (6–12)

This series develops comprehension and fluency through narratives and poetry. High-interest activities reinforce grammar, usage and mechanics.

#### Spanish instruction – Serie Siglo XXI: Lectura y Comunicacion (6–12)

This series develops reading comprehension through multicultural reading selections and activities.

Note: The Serie Siglo XXI curriculum is a theme-based language arts program that integrates listening, reading, writing, oral expression, vocabulary, phonics, grammar, usage and mechanics. It is not intended to teach the English language.

# Career English

## 1. Academic Innovations: Career Choices

Career Choices teaches self-awareness, decision-making skills, and career exploration. It is appropriate for School-to-Work students who wish to explore their career choices while satisfying English credit for high school. As students uncover their unique abilities and ambitions, they develop the following skills and attitudes needed to build successful careers and lives in rapidly changing times.