

# RIGOROUS CURRICULUM DIALOGUE



THIRD GRADE

ELA

UNIT 3

## UNIT STANDARDS



Students will learn how to:

- Distinguish their point of view from the people in a story.
- Explain how their point of view is different from the author's.
- Write an opinion piece in which they state an opinion and support it with reasons.
- Use conjunctions correctly when writing a variety of types of sentences.
- Use dictionaries or other reference materials to check the spelling of words.
- Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words in a text.

## WHAT STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO KNOW



- Read and comprehend a variety of texts on a third grade level
- Determine the point of view of the author or characters
- Explain how their point of view is different from that of the author or characters
- Use conjunctions correctly in sentences in their writing
- Use dictionaries to check the spelling of words
- Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words in a text
- Write a piece that states their opinion about a topic and provide evidence that supports their opinion

## WORDS TO KNOW



## STRATEGY



Help your child write an opinion piece that states their opinion on a topic and supports it with reasons.

## EXAMPLE



Have your child read the two articles about animals in zoos at the following links:

- Should Animals Be Kept in Zoos link: [Animal Facts](#)
- Zoos: Prisons or Sanctuaries?: [Controversial Issues: Zoos](#)

After reading the two articles, help your child decide which author they agree with. They can create a Venn diagram to help organize their thoughts. Links to an interactive Venn diagram and template are provided in the resource section of this guide.

To create a Venn diagram, first have your child draw two circles that overlap in the middle on a piece of paper. Then have them list the points the two articles agree on in the middle. They should then list the reasons the two articles don't agree in the two outer circles under the correct heading for each article.

Once the Venn diagram is complete, help your child practice writing an opinion essay in which they explain their opinion and support it with evidence from their research. They should begin their opinion essay by introducing their opinion. Then they should list the reasons they believe what they do, support their reasons with evidence, and end the piece with a conclusion.

Use the following 3rd grade writing rubrics to help you evaluate your child's writing:

- [Rubric for Opinion Writing](#)
- [Rubric for Opinion Essay](#)

## STRATEGY



Help your child use context clues to figure out the meaning of words unfamiliar to them in a text. Using context clues to understand unfamiliar words and determine their meaning is an important third grade skill.

## EXAMPLE



Review the following steps with your child to use to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words they encounter when reading. Example sentences with an unfamiliar word underlined are listed beside each step in parentheses.

- Look for the definition of the word in the sentence. Some sentences will define the unfamiliar word. Example: *Mr. Smith is an affable man who is always kind to others.* If you keep reading the sentence you can see that affable means kind.
- Look for a synonym, a word that means exactly or nearly the same as another word. Example: *Mr. Smith is quite affable. He reminds me of Mrs. Long who was always kind to others.*
- Look for opposite relationships. Example: *I miss Mr. Smith. My new teacher is always mean but Mr. Smith was so affable.* You can use the description of the new teacher as being mean to figure out that affable means nice.
- Look for an example. Example: *Mr. Smith is an affable teacher. He will always take the time to talk to you and listen to your problems.* The second sentence gives an example of what it means to be affable.
- Sometimes you just need to take a guess! Example: *Mr. Smith is an affable teacher. You will like being in his class this year.* The second sentence makes you think about what quality would make a teacher enjoyable to have, such as a kind and nice teacher.

## STRATEGY



Help your child determine an author's point of view (how the author thinks or feels about a subject) by reading familiar stories or news articles with them.

## EXAMPLE



Help your child select a familiar story to read together. After reading, ask your child the following questions to help them determine the author's point of view:

- Who is telling the story?
- What was that character thinking?
- What is important to that character?

Then have your child pick a different character from the story. Have them retell the story to you from that character's point of view. For example, the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk' would change if your child retold it from the giant's point of view.

You can also read news articles from the newspaper/online or watch local news stories that are appropriate for third graders with your child and then discuss the author's point of view.

## RESOURCES



- Venn diagram links: [Interactive Venn Diagram](#) and [Printable Venn Diagram](#)
- Point of view videos link: <https://www.weareteachers.com/point-of-view-videos/>
- Point of view link: [Graphic Organizer](#)
- Leveled reading passages with questions/writing prompts: [www.readworks.org](http://www.readworks.org)
- Grammar skills games: [www.abcya.com](http://www.abcya.com)

\*The listed resources are not endorsed by GSCS but are offered as possible tools that families may utilize.



Griffin-Spalding  
County School System

*Grow Sustain Collaborate Succeed*

216 South Sixth Street  
P.O. Drawer N  
Griffin, GA 30224-0248  
(770) 229-3700  
Fax: (770) 229-3708  
[www.spalding.k12.ga.us](http://www.spalding.k12.ga.us)