

Welcome to the First Grade Literacy Masterclass! First grade is the single most critical year in a child's reading development. It is the bridge between looking at pictures and unlocking complex texts. Our classroom is a dynamic, fast-paced environment where we transform early readers into confident, fluent speakers, analytical thinkers, and structured writers.

Our comprehensive curriculum is meticulously mapped to the Illinois Learning Standards for 1st Grade English Language Arts. In our community, families expect an exceptional academic foundation. This integrated course targets advanced acceleration, ensuring your child builds the phonetic mastery, reading stamina, and sentence structure necessary to stand out in the classroom.

Reading Mastery: Decoding with Automaticity & Deep Comprehension

We teach reading as a dual-track system: mastering the mechanical code of language while simultaneously building high-level critical thinking skills.

- **Advanced Phonics & Word Attack (ILS.RF.1.3):** We dive deep into complex phonetic structures, including long and short vowels, vowel teams (like *ai*, *ea*, *oa*), digraphs, and multi-syllable word decoding. This eliminates the "guessing" habit and replaces it with scientific reading strategies.
- **Fluency & Textual Stamina (ILS.RF.1.4):** Students will read high-interest, grade-level fiction and informational texts aloud. We focus heavily on oral expression, accuracy, and natural pacing, which serves as the direct runway to reading comprehension.
- **Analytical Thinking & Text Evidence (ILS.RI.1.1):** Moving beyond basic plot summary, students will learn to ask and answer deep questions about key details, identify the main topic, and explicitly describe the connection between two individuals, events, or pieces of information in a text.

Writing Architecture: Crafting Strong, Structured Sentences

First-grade writing is where true expression begins. We move past simple labeling to teach the formal architecture of standard written English.

- **Sentence Mechanics & Craft (ILS.L.1.1-2):** We reinforce the absolute essentials: flawless capitalization (first words and dates), proper spacing, and precise ending punctuation. Students will learn to transition from simple sentences to compound structures using conjunctions (e.g., *and*, *but*, *so*).
- **Purposeful Writing Styles (ILS.W.1.1-3):** Your child will learn to write with a clear purpose across three domains:
 - *Opinion:* Stating a thesis and supplying a logical reason to support it.
 - *Informational:* Naming a topic, supplying accurate facts, and providing a sense of closure.
 - *Narrative:* Recounting two or more sequenced events, including details about what happened and clear temporal words (*first*, *next*, *finally*).

By combining advanced phonics with creative, structured writing, we give 1st-grade students the academic stamina they need to excel. We keep our lessons engaging, interactive, and rigorous giving your child a sophisticated head start in their academic journey.

Warmly,

Brenda Haugg, [M.Ed.](#)

A.K.A.: Mrs. H

1st Grade Teacher

Ray Chinese School