

**Grace Christian Academy
Course Description**

Course Title: 3rd Grade Reading
Course Length: Full Year

Class Meetings (Per Week): Daily
Textbooks: A Beka Reading Series, Level 3
A Beka Publishing Co.

General Course Description: A well rounded program of classic literature that includes poetry and prose written by men and women which help students grow intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually, by demonstrating discernment, aesthetic values, and character. A strong phonics approach is included and the accompanying text is the Handbook for Reading. Comprehension is tested weekly through the Read and Think Skill Sheets. Additionally students read books from Reading A to Z program and progress from level to level as they demonstrate competency.

Biblical Principles:

Literature: God desires for us to have an understanding of our times and our culture. Literature is a reflection of our culture. “To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning.” (Daniel 1:17)

Reading: God communicates to His people by the written word. To be a reader who retains with good comprehension is important in our understanding of God, His Word, and His expectations for His people. It is also important as a means for our faith to grow. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

Oral reading: It is important to God that His people are able to read orally in a fluent manner in order for His Word to be proclaimed clearly. “When all Israel comes to appear before the Lord our God at the place He will choose, you shall read this law before them in their hearing.” (Deuteronomy 31:11) “They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshipping the Lord their God.” (Nehemiah 9:3)

Recreational Reading: God wants His people to enjoy Him and His creation and to be encouraged. “The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message.” (Acts 15:31) We read in order to gain understanding. God works through this to add to our knowledge, wisdom. “Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ.” (Ephesians 3:2-4)

General Course Content:

1st Quarter:

- Read and Think Skill sheets 1-6
- Paths to Adventure
- Footprints
- Review Phonics Skills
- Timed comprehension activities

2nd Quarter:

- Read and Think Skill Sheets 7-14
- Pilgrim Boy
- Crossroads

Dognapped Cat
 Adventures in Other Lands (comprehension book as homework)
 Review Phonic Skills
 Blends
 Diagraphs
 Vowel diphthongs
 Silent letter combinations
 Timed comprehension activities

3rd Quarter:

Read and Think Skill Sheets 15-23
 Health, Safety, and Manners
 Secret in the Maple Tree

4th Quarter:

Read and Think Skill Sheets 24-30
 Worlds of Wonder
 Comprehension, dictionary skills, recalling details
 Creative writing
 Timed comprehension activities
 Character qualities
 Vocabulary
 Comprehension, sequencing, paragraph writing, list making, choral reading

Related Student Objectives/Learner Objectives:

The student will learn:

1. To identify ways that God's Word help story characters to develop character
2. To demonstrate strong comprehensive skills by answering questions about the story
3. To use the structure of language to know if what is read sounds correct.
4. To sequence events from a story and illustrate in sections on paper
5. To identify the problem and its resolution in a story
6. To identify character trait themes e.g. courage and perseverance
7. To be able to identify antonyms of the story's vocabulary words
8. To identify synonyms and antonyms
9. To demonstrate good comprehension skills by scoring 80% or above on
10. To use graphic organizers to lay out information
11. To identify homonyms and demonstrate how to apply them to a story
12. To demonstrate how implied meaning is used
13. To write their own fable using animal characters
14. To demonstrate ability to speak in front of group
15. To demonstrate knowledge of action verbs
16. To progress from being a word to word to a thought to thought reader
17. To demonstrate word meaning by matching word with proper definition
18. To use maps or pictures for greater story understanding
19. To visualize the story being read
20. To use logical relationships for recall and classification
21. To make, revise, and confirm predictions during reading
22. To connect what is being read to his own prior knowledge

23. To read aloud to an audience
24. To compare and contrast within the story
25. To retain reading facts and ideas that are carried to successive chapters
26. To recognize cause-effect relationships
27. To select main idea of paragraph or story
28. To list details that supports the main events in a story.
29. To demonstrate mastery in their comprehension skills by answering questions
30. To identify with the characters in a book
31. To draw conclusions from the story
32. To identify the story's main character
33. To identify new characters and their relationships to the main character
34. To predict a logical outcome
35. To identify the author's purpose
36. To retell the text of a story briefly
37. To support the story's main points with details
38. To describe the setting(s) in a story
39. To develop patriotism for his country
40. To describe the power of prayer as illustrated in stories
41. To describe what happens when the character takes the wrong path
42. To identify the principle of sowing and reaping as in Galatians
43. To identify certain words in a story by circling them in a puzzle
44. To personalize stories by connecting them to his own experiences and prior knowledge
45. To identify scriptures on humility
46. To use vocabulary from the text
47. To describe the feeling of contentment
48. To identify the meaning of contentment and write out ways to apply it to his life
49. To identify the teachings of Christ in stories
50. To increase reading rate to between 100 and 130 words per minute

Presentation Method:

- Reading homework
- Oral reading in class
- Dramatic readings
- Story discussion
- Comprehension quizzes
- Read and think comprehension activities
- Recreation reading which includes fiction, nonfiction, reference material, poetry, Bible skits, plays, comics, sports, science, history, mysteries, jokes, animal stories

Evaluation and Grading Methods:

- Worksheet grades
- Vocabulary tests
- Read and think comprehension sheets
- Quizzes on stories
- Various supplementary skill sheets covering specific reading skills
- Grading Scale as follows:

100-90%	A	E = Exceeds Expectations
89-80%	B	M = Meets Expectations
79-70%	C	N = Needs Further Development
69-60%	D	
59-0%	F	

Enrichment and/or Supplemental Activities:

- Participation in reading programs (Book It, Six Flags, Raging Rivers)
- Reading to students
- Library
- Book reports
- Book club orders
- Subscription to God's World magazine
- Compare books on video
- Reading to one another
- Reading orally to classroom volunteers
- Reading A to Z Program; leveled readers, skill sheets, quizzes, test comprehension
- Novel Reading Units: (one per year)
 - Dog Napped Cat
 - Little House on the Prairie
 - Charlotte's Web
 - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.