

# Literacy at Home Guide

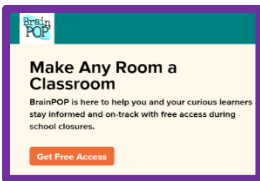
## Upper Elementary



This guide will help you assist your child with literacy skills. **Just click on the boxes!** *If they don't open right away, right click on the picture and choose "open link".*

### PHONICS

Phonics in the upper grades focuses on meaningful word parts. Word parts like prefixes, (*dis, re, un, non*) and suffixes, (*ed, er, able, ing, tion, ology*) are taught to show how they change the base words. For example, the meaning of the word **agree** changes when you add **dis-agree-able**. Notice these word parts when your child reads to you and discuss what the parts do to change the meaning of the base word. In the upper grades, phonics also teaches less common sound/spelling combinations, such as *ch* saying the */sh/* sound, as in *chartreuse*.



[www.BrainPop.com](http://www.BrainPop.com) Register for free home access. Find phonics practice and more!



[www.Education.com](http://www.Education.com) has great phonics games and more for Gr. K-5.



[www.ReallyGreatReading.com](http://www.ReallyGreatReading.com) Free access to word work, spelling, dictation, and reading passages.

### VOCABULARY

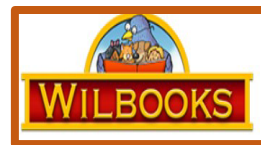
If your child doesn't know what words mean, they will not comprehend the text. Talk about words and what they mean when reading with your child. Ask them if they have heard of this word before. Have they heard a similar version of the word? Making a connection is how they will remember the word. Make it a game by using the words 10 times during day!



[www.Funbrain.com](http://www.Funbrain.com) Free vocabulary and comprehension games and more for K-HS.



[www.mycapstonelibrary.com](http://www.mycapstonelibrary.com) 3000 ebooks with audio, music and sound effects.



[www.Wilbooks.com](http://www.Wilbooks.com) K-3 ebooks, including Spanish.

### FLUENCY

Fluency is how smoothly your child reads words and phrases and is able to decode (figure out the sounds the letters make) words. Fluency improves with three strategies: rereading text, echo reading (you read a page aloud and then your child reads the same page), or choral reading (you both read aloud at the same time). Have fun with rereading by changing to a whisper, a loud voice, or an excited voice. Have your child choose challenging texts that are of interest to them. Need more books? Your local library has a wealth of downloadable books to choose from in addition to the Vocabulary links, above.

## COMPREHENSION

When your child is reading, stop them periodically and ask them to tell you about what they are reading. If it's a story, ask what is going on, who the characters are and how they are like or different from themselves, what problems are occurring and what might happen next. Ask them to make connections to other books, their own lives, or the world.

If it's a non-fiction or informational book, ask about the topic, what they are learning, what surprises them, how the captions and pictures relate to the topic, if the information confirms or conflicts with what they think they knew, and how other topics are related to this one. Ask how the charts and graphs add information.



**CKLA Read Alouds**  
For K through Gr. 5 to dig deep into knowledge. Get the login from your child's teacher.



<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html?cache> K-9 Grade level to widen understanding of our world.



[www.ReadWorks.org](http://www.ReadWorks.org)  
Lots of articles along with comprehension questions.

## WRITING

Having an authentic purpose for writing is always a great motivator. Your child can: write a journal about what they are doing over the break; write a letter to a friend or relative; write a "how to guide" on ways to keep busy during the time off; make a brochure and hang it up at the grocery store for others to enjoy.



[www.Kidblog.org](http://www.Kidblog.org)  
Provides safe and interesting opportunities for your child to write for real audiences, Free for 30 days.



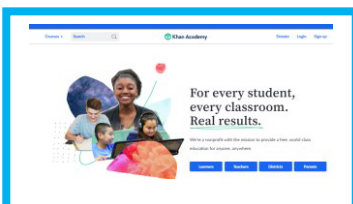
[www.BoomWriter.com](http://www.BoomWriter.com) Gr. 2-8. Inspires students in all types of writing



[www.Writable.com](http://www.Writable.com) includes over 600 writing prompts and challenges for students.

## MOTIVATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Enjoying reading and writing can be accomplished by letting your child have time to read books they are interested in and choose themselves. Get them excited about learning something new. Writing can be fun if it is not just a task but for a real purpose. Your child can create a comic or write a story with a friend (or you) on a shared online platform like Google Doc.



[www.KhanAcademy.org](http://www.KhanAcademy.org)  
You can find lessons for every subject, every grade level.