

SECRETS TO SUCCESS—Grades 3-4

Course Syllabus

Welcome to Storybird Prep!

In this online course, your students will have the chance to review important concepts and skills that will help them succeed in English Language Arts, no matter their level or ability.

Experienced English teachers have developed and written this course to align with **Writing, Reading, Speaking, and Listening standards** that are universally accepted as basic building blocks in a strong English foundation. Lessons can be differentiated for students, fit well within existing units of study, and, while scaffolded, can be broken up and taught in different ways, either as mini-lessons, whole class activities, individual work, or group work. Lessons are easily modified to be completed in a single class period or as a part of a larger unit.

Content

This course contains 13 lessons, 10 videos, 3 quizzes, and 2 writing challenges. Through engaging language, fun stories and poems, catchy mnemonic devices, activities, downloadable handouts, simple multiple choice quizzes, and writing challenges, the lessons teach and assess the following concepts and skills:

- **Basic literary terms:** An introduction to plot, setting, characterization, conflict, and theme
- **Parts of speech:** An explanation of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, proper nouns, pronouns, interjections, conjunctions, and prepositions
- **Punctuation:** A review of important punctuation, including the period, exclamation mark, question mark, apostrophe, quotation marks, parentheses, and ellipses
- **Sentence, paragraph, and simple essay construction:** How to write complete sentences using subject-verb agreement, how to use transitions, how to write an introduction with a hook, how to form body paragraphs, how to write effective conclusions

Goals

By working through this course, your students will be able to:

- Review or learn important terms and concepts that will be used throughout their school years in their own writing, reading, analysis, and discussions

- Read original stories, identify literary terms, and explain how terms are used within the text to create different effects
- Practice reading passages out loud and listen to determine effects of language and punctuation on meaning
- Prewrite, brainstorm, and draft, and revise short and longer writing in response to activities and challenges
- Practice using technology and learn to participate in a safe online community
- Assess their knowledge of the material with three 10-question multiple choice quizzes, easily taken over if student does not obtain a 10/10
- Rewrite sentences to practice using parts of speech effectively
- Write a final piece that incorporates their knowledge of the course material

Rubric

We have developed a [simple rubric](#) that can be used to evaluate student work on Storybird easily and quickly. These rubrics can be adapted to fit your department's, district's, or state's requirements for English Language Arts assignments.

Finally

It is our hope here at Storybird that you will find these lessons thoughtful, fun, and appropriate for your students. They are general enough that they can fit with many different state / district requirements as well as specific enough that they teach universally useful ELA concepts and skills. They are easily adapted and can be done as stand-alone lessons, out of order, or as an entire unit. We hope they enhance your classroom and your curriculum and welcome any feedback you have for us as we continue to develop new content for educators.

[Contact us here](#)