

BRIX BEYOND BOOKS 3

Adventure & Self-Discovery

Grade 3 explores adventure, personal growth, and self-discovery through literature, discussion, writing, and interdisciplinary nonfiction. Students strengthen comprehension and literary analysis while building the background knowledge, independent thinking, and communication skills needed for increasingly advanced academic reading.

Literature

Featured Novels: *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg; *A Wolf Called Wander* by Rosanne Parry

Literary Focus: Inference, sequencing, narrative structure, cause and effect, theme, foreshadowing, symbolism, character development, and conflict & resolution.

Nonfiction Exploration

Animal Superpowers

Animal adaptations, camouflage, and survival strategies through National Geographic Kids and CommonLit.

Space & the Solar System

Planets, space exploration, and the solar system through NASA Space Place, Time for Kids, and CommonLit.

Reading & Critical Thinking

- Strengthen comprehension across literature and nonfiction while building background knowledge across academic and real-world topics.
- Analyze character, theme, author choices, evidence, and perspective.
- Make connections across texts, consider different viewpoints, and develop independent thinking.

Writing & Idea Development

- Develop and organize original ideas through discussion and writing.
- Practice literary analysis, opinion, and evidence-based writing supported by relevant details and textual evidence.
- Build foundations for Claim-Evidence-Reasoning (CER) and argumentative writing.

Writing Forms: Descriptive • Narrative • Character Analysis • Theme Analysis • Evidence-Based • Compare & Contrast • Analytical Paragraph • Creative Writing

Vocabulary & Grammar

Weekly vocabulary study builds word knowledge in context. Grammar is integrated into reading and writing with emphasis on sentence structure, usage, punctuation, figurative language, and editing for clarity.

Class Structure & Assessment

Weekly Class	Vocabulary Quiz • Novel Discussion • Lesson-Focused Writing • Creative/Analytical Writing
Weekly Homework	Vocabulary • Reading • Writing

Assessment & Final Projects: Cumulative unit assessments; Theme Analysis and Character Analysis final projects; and **two SSAT Reading Benchmark Assessments each semester** to monitor comprehension, vocabulary in context, inference, and text analysis.

Short Stories & Poetry: Short stories and poetry broaden students' exposure to literary forms while reinforcing theme, narrative structure, figurative language, poetic devices, and creative expression.

16-Week Course Outline

WEEK	FOCUS	SKILLS & ACTIVITIES
1	Short Story 1	Theme & figurative language • Metaphor writing • Theme analysis
2	Short Story 2	Narrative structure • Punctuation • Paragraph response
3	Introduction & Inference	Making inferences • Prepositional phrases • Evidence-supported response
4	Character Analysis	Traits, motivations & relationships • Sentence types • Character paragraph
5	Sequencing & Narrative Structure	Sequencing • Narrative structure • Sentence fragments • Short narrative
6	Theme & Symbolism	Themes & symbols • Figurative language & imagery • Descriptive paragraph
7	Cumulative Final	Novel comprehension • Vocabulary / grammar / writing • Theme Analysis project
8	Introduction & Inference	Predictions & inferences • Parts of speech • Inference paragraph
9	Cause & Effect	Plot development • Cause & effect • Sentence review • Related article response
10	Theme & Evidence-Based Analysis	Theme • Textual evidence • Analytical paragraph using supporting evidence
11	Foreshadowing & Symbolism	Foreshadowing • Symbolism • Figurative language • Creative writing
12	Setting & Character Development	Setting • Character change • Subject-verb agreement • Character analysis
13	Conflict & Resolution	Conflict & resolution • Compare & contrast • Comparative paragraph
14	Cumulative Final	Novel comprehension • Vocabulary / grammar / writing • Character Analysis project
15	Poetry 1	Poetic structure & devices • Analysis • Original poetry
16	Poetry 2	Figurative language • Poetry writing • Original poem