**3rd Grade ELA Curriculum for Students with ASD**

By L.Malone (copywrited. For personal use only, not to be redistributed to others without express consent from author).

**Overview**

Focus: Enhancing narrative writing skills with a deeper understanding of plot development, character motivations, and more sophisticated sentence structures.

**Weeks 1-4: Advanced Story Elements**

**Focus**: Character development, setting description, plot structure, and conflict resolution.

* **Week 1: Character Traits**
	+ **Read Aloud**: *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White (selected excerpts).
	+ **Activity**: Identify and describe character traits.
	+ **Hands-On**: Create character trait charts with examples from the story.
* **Week 2: Detailed Settings**
	+ **Read Aloud**: *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak.
	+ **Activity**: Explore how setting influences the story.
	+ **Hands-On**: Build a 3D model of the story’s setting using recyclable materials.
* **Week 3: Plot Development**
	+ **Read Aloud**: *Harry the Dirty Dog* by Gene Zion.
	+ **Activity**: Identify the exposition, rising action, climax, and resolution.
	+ **Hands-On**: Create a plot diagram with labels and illustrations.
* **Week 4: Conflict and Resolution**
	+ **Read Aloud**: *The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch.
	+ **Activity**: Discuss the main conflict and how it is resolved.
	+ **Hands-On**: Role-play different resolutions to the conflict.

**Weeks 5-8: Enhancing Sentence Structures**

**Focus**: Using complex sentences, conjunctions, and varying sentence lengths.

* **Week 5: Complex Sentences**
	+ **Activity**: Introduce dependent and independent clauses.
	+ **Hands-On**: Combine simple sentences into complex ones using conjunctions.
* **Week 6: Conjunctions in Writing**
	+ **Activity**: Focus on using “because,” “although,” and “since” in sentences.
	+ **Hands-On**: Conjunction sorting games with sentence strips.
* **Week 7: Varying Sentence Lengths**
	+ **Activity**: Practice writing a mix of short and long sentences for effect.
	+ **Hands-On**: Sentence stretching exercises where students expand simple sentences.
* **Week 8: Punctuation in Complex Sentences**
	+ **Activity**: Teach proper punctuation for complex sentences, including commas.
	+ **Hands-On**: Interactive punctuation placement activities using digital tools or worksheets.

**Weeks 9-12: Developing Descriptive Writing**

**Focus**: Using sensory details, figurative language, and precise vocabulary.

* **Week 9: Sensory Details**
	+ **Activity**: Incorporate sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste into writing.
	+ **Hands-On**: Sensory walks around the classroom or school to gather descriptive ideas.
* **Week 10: Figurative Language**
	+ **Activity**: Introduce similes and metaphors.
	+ **Hands-On**: Create a figurative language collage with examples from texts and student creations.
* **Week 11: Precise Vocabulary**
	+ **Activity**: Use specific nouns and strong verbs to enhance writing.
	+ **Hands-On**: Vocabulary bingo with action words and descriptive terms.
* **Week 12: Descriptive Paragraphs**
	+ **Activity**: Write paragraphs focused on describing a character or setting.
	+ **Hands-On**: Peer sharing sessions with guided feedback on descriptive elements.

**Weeks 13-16: Introduction to Story Structure**

**Focus**: Understanding narrative arcs, subplots, and maintaining coherence in stories.

* **Week 13: Narrative Arc**
	+ **Activity**: Study the beginning, middle, and end in more depth.
	+ **Hands-On**: Create a story mountain with peaks representing climax and valleys for resolutions.
* **Week 14: Subplots**
	+ **Activity**: Introduce the concept of subplots and how they support the main plot.
	+ **Hands-On**: Map out main and subplots using graphic organizers.
* **Week 15: Maintaining Coherence**
	+ **Activity**: Ensure logical flow and consistency in storytelling.
	+ **Hands-On**: Use transition words to link paragraphs and ideas smoothly.
* **Week 16: Writing Story Outlines**
	+ **Activity**: Develop detailed outlines for original stories.
	+ **Hands-On**: Use story planning templates to organize ideas before writing.

**Weeks 17-20: Drafting and Developing Stories**

**Focus**: Writing first drafts with a focus on narrative techniques and character development.

* **Week 17: Drafting the Beginning**
	+ **Activity**: Write engaging introductions that set the scene and introduce characters.
	+ **Hands-On**: Use story starters to kickstart the beginning of their stories.
* **Week 18: Developing the Middle**
	+ **Activity**: Focus on building tension and advancing the plot.
	+ **Hands-On**: Create conflict scenarios using dice or story cubes to inspire plot twists.
* **Week 19: Crafting the Climax and Resolution**
	+ **Activity**: Write the high point of the story and its resolution.
	+ **Hands-On**: Use drama techniques to act out climactic moments before writing.
* **Week 20: Peer Review and Feedback**
	+ **Activity**: Share drafts with peers and provide constructive feedback.
	+ **Hands-On**: Use guided worksheets to structure feedback sessions.

**Weeks 21-24: Revising and Editing**

**Focus**: Refining stories through detailed revision and editing processes.

* **Week 21: Content Revision**
	+ **Activity**: Enhance plot details, character motivations, and setting descriptions.
	+ **Hands-On**: Use revision checklists to guide improvements.
* **Week 22: Grammar and Syntax Editing**
	+ **Activity**: Correct grammatical errors and improve sentence structure.
	+ **Hands-On**: Editing workshops with peer assistance and teacher guidance.
* **Week 23: Final Draft Preparation**
	+ **Activity**: Prepare the final version of their stories incorporating revisions.
	+ **Hands-On**: Use clean writing paper or digital tools for a polished final draft.
* **Week 24: Illustrating Final Stories**
	+ **Activity**: Add detailed illustrations that complement the written narrative.
	+ **Hands-On**: Use mixed media (crayons, markers, collage materials) for illustrations.

**Weeks 25-26: Sharing and Celebrating**

**Focus**: Presenting completed works and reflecting on the writing journey.

* **Week 25: Story Sharing**
	+ **Activity**: Present stories to the class or in small groups.
	+ **Hands-On**: Create a “story corner” where students can display and share their work.
* **Week 26: Celebrating Achievements**
	+ **Activity**: Host a storytelling day with certificates of accomplishment.
	+ **Hands-On**: Create a class anthology of all stories to take home or display.