**4th Grade ELA Curriculum for Students with ASD**

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**Overview**

Focus: Refining narrative skills, introducing elements of expository writing, and enhancing editing techniques for more complex writing tasks.

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

**Focus**: In-depth character analysis, diverse settings, plot intricacies, and thematic elements.

* **Week 1: Complex Characters**
  + **Read Aloud**: *Matilda* by Roald Dahl (selected excerpts).
  + **Activity**: Analyze character motivations and development.
  + **Hands-On**: Create character journals detailing thoughts and feelings.
* **Week 2: Varied Settings**
  + **Read Aloud**: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis (selected excerpts).
  + **Activity**: Explore multiple settings within a story.
  + **Hands-On**: Design detailed maps of different settings using drawing tools.
* **Week 3: Intricate Plot Structures**
  + **Read Aloud**: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl (selected excerpts).
  + **Activity**: Identify subplots and their connections to the main plot.
  + **Hands-On**: Create plot threads using yarn or string to show connections.
* **Week 4: Themes and Messages**
  + **Read Aloud**: *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio (selected excerpts).
  + **Activity**: Discuss the underlying themes and messages.
  + **Hands-On**: Create theme posters illustrating the main messages of stories.

**Weeks 5-8: Expository Writing Introduction**

**Focus**: Transitioning from narrative to expository writing, focusing on informative texts.

* **Week 5: Understanding Expository Writing**
  + **Activity**: Introduce the purpose and structure of expository texts.
  + **Hands-On**: Identify expository elements in non-fiction books.
* **Week 6: Writing Informative Paragraphs**
  + **Activity**: Practice writing paragraphs that inform about a topic.
  + **Hands-On**: Use graphic organizers to outline key information before writing.
* **Week 7: Research Skills**
  + **Activity**: Teach basic research skills using age-appropriate resources.
  + **Hands-On**: Conduct a simple research project on a chosen topic with guidance.
* **Week 8: Writing Simple Reports**
  + **Activity**: Compile research into a structured report with introduction, body, and conclusion.
  + **Hands-On**: Create report templates to guide writing.

**Weeks 9-12: Enhancing Narrative Techniques**

**Focus**: Utilizing advanced narrative techniques such as flashbacks, foreshadowing, and multiple perspectives.

* **Week 9: Flashbacks**
  + **Activity**: Introduce the concept of flashbacks in storytelling.
  + **Hands-On**: Write a short narrative that includes a flashback scene.
* **Week 10: Foreshadowing**
  + **Activity**: Learn how authors hint at future events.
  + **Hands-On**: Identify foreshadowing in read-aloud stories and create their own examples.
* **Week 11: Multiple Perspectives**
  + **Activity**: Explore stories from different characters' viewpoints.
  + **Hands-On**: Rewrite a scene from another character’s perspective.
* **Week 12: Dialogue Enhancement**
  + **Activity**: Use dialogue to reveal character traits and advance the plot.
  + **Hands-On**: Script writing and performing dialogues with partners.

**Weeks 13-16: Planning and Drafting Complex Stories**

**Focus**: Organizing ideas for more complex narratives and beginning the drafting process.

* **Week 13: Brainstorming Advanced Ideas**
  + **Activity**: Generate ideas for stories with multiple characters and settings.
  + **Hands-On**: Use brainstorming webs and story idea journals.
* **Week 14: Detailed Story Outlines**
  + **Activity**: Develop comprehensive outlines including subplots and themes.
  + **Hands-On**: Fill out multi-section outline templates.
* **Week 15: Writing First Drafts**
  + **Activity**: Begin writing first drafts using detailed outlines.
  + **Hands-On**: Set up writing stations with minimal distractions and necessary tools.
* **Week 16: Incorporating Narrative Techniques**
  + **Activity**: Integrate flashbacks, foreshadowing, and multiple perspectives into drafts.
  + **Hands-On**: Peer workshops focusing on narrative enhancements.

**Weeks 17-20: Revising and Enhancing Drafts**

**Focus**: Refining narratives through detailed revision and introducing advanced editing techniques.

* **Week 17: Content Revision**
  + **Activity**: Enhance plot complexity, character depth, and thematic elements.
  + **Hands-On**: Use revision checklists and teacher feedback to guide improvements.
* **Week 18: Structural Editing**
  + **Activity**: Improve sentence structure, paragraph flow, and coherence.
  + **Hands-On**: Rearrange paragraphs and sentences for better flow using index cards.
* **Week 19: Grammar and Syntax**
  + **Activity**: Focus on correcting grammatical errors and improving syntax.
  + **Hands-On**: Interactive grammar games and editing worksheets.
* **Week 20: Polishing Final Drafts**
  + **Activity**: Finalize stories with all revisions and edits incorporated.
  + **Hands-On**: Use neat writing practices or digital tools for clean final copies.

**Weeks 21-24: Introduction to Publishing**

**Focus**: Preparing stories for sharing through various publishing methods.

* **Week 21: Creating Storybooks**
  + **Activity**: Assemble stories into book format with illustrations.
  + **Hands-On**: Use staplers or binding tools to create simple booklets.
* **Week 22: Digital Publishing Basics**
  + **Activity**: Introduce basic digital writing tools for creating e-books.
  + **Hands-On**: Use simple word processors to type and format stories.
* **Week 23: Illustrating and Formatting**
  + **Activity**: Add final illustrations and format the story layout.
  + **Hands-On**: Use colored pencils, markers, or digital drawing tools for illustrations.
* **Week 24: Creating a Class Anthology**
  + **Activity**: Compile all student stories into a class anthology.
  + **Hands-On**: Bind the anthology or create a digital version to share.

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

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

* **Week 25: Story Presentations**
  + **Activity**: Present stories to the class, parents, or a small group.
  + **Hands-On**: Set up a presentation area with comfortable seating and display stands.
* **Week 26: Reflective Activities**
  + **Activity**: Discuss what they learned and enjoyed about writing.
  + **Hands-On**: Use reflection journals or guided discussion prompts to express thoughts.