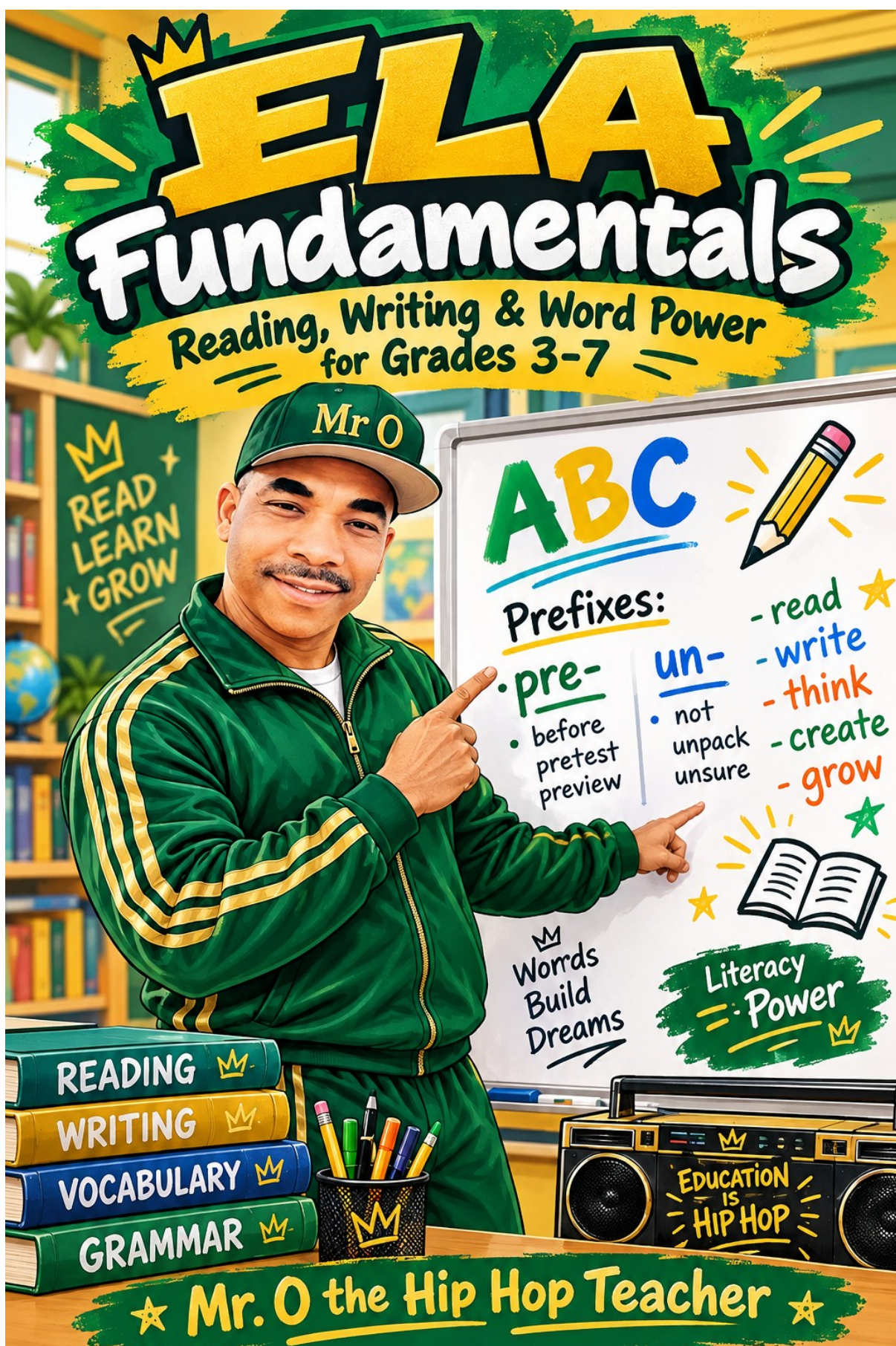




ELA FUNDAMENTALS

Reading, Writing & Word Power for Grades 3–7

Phonics • Sight Words • Spelling • Roots & Affixes • Vocabulary • Sentences • Paragraphs •
Essays • Annotation • Text Evidence • Research • SCEPS

by Mr. O the Hip Hop Teacher

A Leaders of the Homeschool Book

leadersofthehomeschool.education

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Lists of U.S. states and world oceans reflect common usage at the time of publication. Sight words are drawn from the widely used Dolch and Fry high-frequency word lists.

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A Message from Mr. O



What's good, scholars, parents, and teachers! I'm Mr. O the Hip Hop Teacher. For over 18 years I've stood in front of classrooms in New Jersey and Florida — urban, suburban, and rural — and here's what I've seen: a LOT of students are reading and writing one to three grade levels below where they should be. That's not because they aren't smart. It's because somewhere along the way, the fundamentals got skipped.

Think about a hip-hop track. You can't drop a hot verse without a beat underneath it. The fundamentals — phonics, sight words, spelling, word parts, sentences — ARE the beat. Once the beat is solid, you can freestyle on anything: essays, research papers, novels, speeches.

This book takes you back to the basics, but we're not moving slow — we're moving SMART. Every chapter gives you a lesson, a Mr. O tip, practice, and flash cards you can cut out and drill. Do a little every day and watch your skills level up.

Let's run it back and build it right.

— **Mr. O**

MR. O SAYS: Visit leadersofthehomeschool.education for free lessons, videos, and extra printables that go with this book.

How to Use This Book

- **Students:** Read one lesson at a time. Do the Practice Bars. Drill your flash cards for 10 minutes a day.
- **Parents & Homeschoolers:** Use one chapter per week. Chapters 1–5 build reading; Chapters 6–8 build writing; Chapters 9–12 build thinking and analysis.
- **Teachers:** Use chapters as mini-lessons, bell-ringers, intervention groups, or centers. Flash cards are photocopy-friendly.
- **Suggested pacing:** Weeks 1–5 Foundations (Ch. 1–5) • Weeks 6–8 Writing (Ch. 6–8)
 - Weeks 9–12 Analysis & Research (Ch. 9–12).

The 10-Minute Daily Drill

- 18.2 min — Phonics sound check (say the sounds out loud)
- 19.3 min — Flash cards (sight words, spelling, or roots)
- 20.3 min — Write one strong sentence using a new word
- 21.2 min — Read aloud to someone and tell them the SCEPS

Chapter 1: Phonics — The Sound Track of Reading

Phonics is the connection between letters and the sounds they make. If you can hear the sounds and match them to letters, you can decode (read) and encode (spell) almost any word.

Vowels and Consonants

The English alphabet has 26 letters: 5 main vowels (A, E, I, O, U), sometimes Y, and 21 consonants. Every syllable needs a vowel sound.

Vowel	Short sound (closed)	Long sound (says its name)
A	cat, map	cake, rain
E	bed, pet	feet, team
I	sit, pig	bike, night
O	hot, dog	rope, boat
U	cup, bus	mule, cute
Y	gym (short i)	fly (long i), happy (long e)

Blends and Digraphs

A blend is two or three consonants where you still hear each sound: bl, cr, st, spl, str.

A digraph is two letters that make ONE new sound.

Digraph	Sound	Examples
sh	/sh/	ship, wish
ch	/ch/	chip, lunch
th	/th/	think, that
wh	/w/	when, whale
ph	/f/	phone, graph
ck	/k/	duck, back
ng	/ng/	sing, ring

Vowel Teams and Bossy R

- **Vowel teams:** ai, ay, ee, ea, oa, ow, oo, ou, oi, oy — "When two vowels go walking, the first one often does the talking" (rain, boat, team) — but watch out for exceptions like 'bread' and 'cloud.'
- **Bossy R (r-controlled):** ar (car), or (corn), er (her), ir (bird), ur (turn). The R changes the vowel's sound.

- **Silent E (magic e):** An e at the end makes the vowel say its name: cap → cape, kit → kite, hop → hope.

The Six Syllable Types

Type	Rule	Example
Closed	Ends in a consonant; short vowel	cat, rab-bit
Open	Ends in a vowel; long vowel	me, ro-bot
Silent E	Vowel-consonant-e; long vowel	bake, in-vite
Vowel Team	Two vowels team up	boat, rain-bow
R-Controlled	Vowel + r	star, bur-ger
Consonant-le	Final syllable: consonant + le	ta-ble, pur-ple

MR. O SAYS: Clap it out! Every clap is a syllable. 'Hip-hop-teach-er' — four claps, four syllables. Break big words into syllables and they stop being scary.

Practice Bar 1

A. Circle the digraph: 1) shark 2) phone 3) whistle 4) chicken 5) bath

B. Add a silent e and write the new word: 1) tap → ____ 2) hug → ____ 3) not → ____ 4) pin → ____

C. Divide into syllables: 1) basketball 2) napkin 3) robot 4) candle 5) remember

Chapter 2: Sight Words You Must Own

Sight words are high-frequency words that show up constantly in reading. Many don't follow normal phonics rules (like 'said,' 'was,' 'could'), so you have to know them instantly — on sight. Fluent readers recognize these in under one second.

Level 1

a, and, away, big, blue, can, come, down, find, for, funny, go, help, here, I, in, is, it, jump, little, look, make, me, my, not, one, play, red, run, said, see, the, three, to, two, up, we, where, yellow, you

Level 2

all, am, are, at, ate, be, black, brown, but, came, did, do, eat, four, get, good, have, he, into, like, must, new, no, now, on, our, out, please, pretty, ran, ride, saw, say, she, so, soon, that, there, they, this, too, under, want, was, well, went, what, white, who, will, with, yes

Level 3

after, again, an, any, as, ask, by, could, every, fly, from, give, going, had, has, her, him, his, how, just, know, let, live, may, of, old, once, open, over, put, round, some, stop, take, thank, them, then, think, walk, were, when

Level 4

always, around, because, been, before, best, both, buy, call, cold, does, don't, fast, first, five, found, gave, goes, green, its, made, many, off, or, pull, read, right, sing, sit, sleep, tell, their, these, those, upon, us, use, very, wash, which, why, wish, work, would, write, your

Level 5 (Commonly Misspelled)

about, across, already, beautiful, believe, brought, business, certain, different, enough, especially, February, friend, government, guess, height, important, island, knowledge, library, necessary, neighbor, often, people, probably, receive, separate, special, surprise, though, thought, through, together, tomorrow, until, usually, weird, Wednesday, whether, women

MR. O SAYS: Use the 'Look-Say-Cover-Write-Check' method: Look at the word, say it, cover it, write it from memory, then check. Do it three times and that word is yours.

Tricky Trios — words people mix up:

Word	Meaning	Sentence
there	a place	Put it over there.
their	belongs to them	Their bikes are new.
they're	they are	They're coming at noon.
to / too / two	direction / also, very / the number 2	I went to two games too.
your / you're	belongs to you / you are	You're holding your book.
its / it's	belongs to it / it is	It's wagging its tail.

Chapter 3: Spelling the World

Days, months, states, oceans, and cities are proper nouns — specific names — so they ALWAYS start with a capital letter.

Days of the Week

Day	Abbrev.	Spelling Trick
Sunday	Sun.	SUN-day
Monday	Mon.	MOON-day minus an o
Tuesday	Tues.	TUE-S-day (the 'ue' like blue)
Wednesday	Wed.	Say it funny: WED-NES-day
Thursday	Thurs.	THOR's day
Friday	Fri.	FRI-day — fry an egg
Saturday	Sat.	SATURN-day

Months of the Year

#	Month	Abbrev.	#	Month	Abbrev.
1	January	Jan.	7	July	Jul.
2	February	Feb.	8	August	Aug.
3	March	Mar.	9	September	Sept.
4	April	Apr.	10	October	Oct.
5	May	—	11	November	Nov.
6	June	—	12	December	Dec.

MR. O SAYS: February has a sneaky R: Feb-RU-ary. Say it slow when you spell it. And remember: 'Thirty days hath September, April, June, and November...'

Seasons

spring, summer, autumn (fall), winter — seasons are NOT capitalized unless they start a sentence.

The 50 United States and Capitals

State	Abbr.	Capital	State	Abbr.	Capital
Alabama	AL	Montgomery	Montana	MT	Helena
Alaska	AK	Juneau	Nebraska	NE	Lincoln
Arizona	AZ	Phoenix	Nevada	NV	Carson City
Arkansas	AR	Little Rock	New Hampshire	NH	Concord
California	CA	Sacramento	New Jersey	NJ	Trenton
Colorado	CO	Denver	New Mexico	NM	Santa Fe

Connecticut	CT	Hartford	New York	NY	Albany
Delaware	DE	Dover	North Carolina	NC	Raleigh
Florida	FL	Tallahassee	North Dakota	ND	Bismarck
Georgia	GA	Atlanta	Ohio	OH	Columbus
Hawaii	HI	Honolulu	Oklahoma	OK	Oklahoma City
Idaho	ID	Boise	Oregon	OR	Salem
Illinois	IL	Springfield	Pennsylvania	PA	Harrisburg
Indiana	IN	Indianapolis	Rhode Island	RI	Providence
Iowa	IA	Des Moines	South Carolina	SC	Columbia
Kansas	KS	Topeka	South Dakota	SD	Pierre
Kentucky	KY	Frankfort	Tennessee	TN	Nashville
Louisiana	LA	Baton Rouge	Texas	TX	Austin
Maine	ME	Augusta	Utah	UT	Salt Lake City
Maryland	MD	Annapolis	Vermont	VT	Montpelier
Massachusetts	MA	Boston	Virginia	VA	Richmond
Michigan	MI	Lansing	Washington	WA	Olympia
Minnesota	MN	Saint Paul	West Virginia	WV	Charleston
Mississippi	MS	Jackson	Wisconsin	WI	Madison
Missouri	MO	Jefferson City	Wyoming	WY	Cheyenne

MR. O SAYS: Hardest states to spell: Massachusetts (double s, double s, double t), Mississippi (M-i-ss-i-ss-i-pp-i), Connecticut (silent second c), Tennessee (double n, double s, double e), and Hawaii (two i's at the end). Plus Washington, D.C. is our nation's capital — but it's not a state.

The Five Oceans

Ocean	Fun Fact
Pacific Ocean	Largest and deepest ocean on Earth
Atlantic Ocean	Separates the Americas from Europe and Africa — and it's on Florida's east coast
Indian Ocean	Warmest ocean
Southern Ocean	Surrounds Antarctica
Arctic Ocean	Smallest and coldest ocean

The Seven Continents

Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, South America

Major Cities to Know

U.S. Cities	World Cities
New York City, New York	London, England
Los Angeles, California	Paris, France
Chicago, Illinois	Tokyo, Japan
Houston, Texas	Beijing, China
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Mexico City, Mexico
Atlanta, Georgia	Cairo, Egypt
Miami, Florida	Lagos, Nigeria
Washington, D.C.	Toronto, Canada
Detroit, Michigan	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Newark, New Jersey	Kingston, Jamaica

Comma rule: Put a comma between a city and its state or country — Melbourne, Florida.

Practice Bar 3

Fix the capitalization and spelling: 1) on wensday we flew to new jersy. 2) my birthday is in february. 3) the pasific ocean is bigger than the atlantic ocean. 4) we visited chicago illinois in agust.

Chapter 4: Word Power — Etymology, Roots, Prefixes & Suffixes

Etymology is the study of where words come from and how their meanings changed over time. The word 'etymology' itself comes from the Greek etymon (true meaning) + -logy (study of). Over half of English words come from Latin and Greek — so learning a few word parts unlocks THOUSANDS of words.

- **Root:** the core meaning of a word (port = carry).
- **Prefix:** a part added to the BEGINNING that changes meaning (trans- = across).
- **Suffix:** a part added to the END that often changes the part of speech (-able = can be).
- **Put together:** trans + port + able = transportable — able to be carried across.



Top Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
un-	not	unhappy, unfair
re-	again, back	redo, return
pre-	before	preview, prepay
dis-	not, opposite	disagree, dislike
mis-	wrongly	misspell, mislead
non-	not	nonfiction, nonstop

in- / im- / il- / ir-	not	invisible, impossible, illegal, irregular
sub-	under	submarine, subway
inter-	between	internet, interact
trans-	across	transport, transfer
super-	above, beyond	superhero, superstar
anti-	against	antibiotic, antisocial
over-	too much	overdo, overcook
bi- / tri-	two / three	bicycle, tricycle
auto-	self	autograph, automatic

Top Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-s / -es	more than one	cats, boxes
-ed	past tense	jumped, played
-ing	happening now	running, reading
-er / -or	person who	teacher, actor
-est	most	fastest, biggest
-ful	full of	joyful, helpful
-less	without	fearless, homeless
-ly	in a way	quickly, softly
-ness	state of being	kindness, darkness
-ment	action or result	movement, payment
-tion / -sion	act or state	action, decision
-able / -ible	can be done	readable, visible
-ous	full of	famous, dangerous
-ist	person who does	artist, scientist
-ology	study of	biology, zoology

Power Roots (Greek & Latin)

Root	Origin	Meaning	Examples
aud	Latin	hear	audio, audience
bio	Greek	life	biology, biography
chron	Greek	time	chronological
dict	Latin	say	predict, dictionary
geo	Greek	earth	geography
graph	Greek	write	autograph, paragraph
ject	Latin	throw	eject, project
micro	Greek	small	microscope
phon	Greek	sound	phonics, telephone
port	Latin	carry	transport, portable
rupt	Latin	break	erupt, interrupt

scope	Greek	see, look	telescope
scrib/script	Latin	write	describe, script
spect	Latin	look	inspect, spectator
struct	Latin	build	construct
tele	Greek	far	television
therm	Greek	heat	thermometer
vid/vis	Latin	see	video, vision

Word Origin Stories

- **Hip hop:** an American term from the 1970s Bronx; 'hip' meant aware or in-the-know.
- **Sandwich:** named after the Earl of Sandwich, who ate meat between bread so he wouldn't stop playing cards.
- **School:** from the Greek skholē, which originally meant 'leisure' — free time used for learning.
- **Alphabet:** from alpha and beta, the first two Greek letters.

MR. O SAYS: When you see a big word, BREAK IT DOWN like a beat: prefix, root, suffix. 'Unbreakable' = un (not) + break + able (can be) = can NOT be broken. That's you, by the way.

Practice Bar 4

Break apart each word and define it: 1) unhappiness 2) preview 3) biography 4) transportation 5) misspelled 6) telescope

Chapter 5: Vocabulary Moves

Your vocabulary is your word bank. The bigger the bank, the richer your reading and writing. Here are the moves that build it.

Context Clues — the 5 Types

Clue Type	Signal Words	Example
Definition	is, means, called	A biography is a true story of someone's life.
Synonym	or, also, like	She was elated, or very happy.
Antonym	but, unlike, however	Unlike his timid sister, Jay was bold.
Example	such as, like, including	Reptiles, such as snakes and lizards, are cold-blooded.
Inference	(no signal — use logic)	After running ten miles, she was exhausted and collapsed on the couch.

Synonyms, Antonyms, Homophones

- **Synonyms:** same meaning — big / huge / enormous
- **Antonyms:** opposite meaning — hot / cold
- **Homophones:** sound the same, different spelling and meaning — knight / night, write / right, flour / flower
- **Multiple-meaning words:** bat (animal or baseball bat), bark (dog or tree)

The Frayer Model (Word Map)

Draw four boxes around a vocabulary word: Definition | Characteristics | Examples | Non-examples.

Definition	Characteristics
Examples	Non-examples

Academic Words Every Student Needs

analyze, cite, compare, contrast, conclude, describe, evaluate, evidence, explain, identify, infer, interpret, predict, summarize, support, theme, trace, main idea, claim, sequence

MR. O SAYS: Use a new word three times today: say it, write it, and use it in conversation. Three times and it's in your playlist forever.

Chapter 6: Sentence Writing



A complete sentence has a subject (who or what), a predicate (what the subject does or is), and expresses a complete thought. It starts with a capital letter and ends with punctuation.

The 8 Parts of Speech

Part	Job	Examples
Noun	person, place, thing, idea	teacher, Florida, freedom
Pronoun	replaces a noun	he, she, they, it
Verb	action or state of being	run, write, is
Adjective	describes a noun	bright, tall, three
Adverb	describes a verb, adjective, or adverb	quickly, very, always
Preposition	shows position/relationship	in, on, under, between
Conjunction	joins words or ideas	and, but, or, so (FANBOYS)
Interjection	shows emotion	Wow! Oh! Yikes!

Four Types of Sentences (by purpose)

- **Declarative** (statement) — Mr. O teaches reading.
- **Interrogative** (question) — Did you finish your essay?
- **Imperative** (command) — Open your books.
- **Exclamatory** (strong feeling) — We won the spelling bee!

Sentence Structures

- **Simple:** one independent clause. — The class laughed.
- **Compound:** two independent clauses joined by a comma + FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so). — The bell rang, so we went to lunch.
- **Complex:** an independent clause + a dependent clause (because, although, when, if, since). — Because I studied, I passed the test.

Fix It: Fragments and Run-Ons

Problem	Example	Fixed
Fragment (incomplete thought)	Because it was raining.	We stayed inside because it was raining.
Run-on (no punctuation)	I love rap I write songs every day.	I love rap. I write songs every day.
Comma splice	I love rap, I write songs.	I love rap, so I write songs.

Capitalization & Punctuation Checklist

- Capitalize the first word, the word I, and proper nouns (names, days, months, places).
- End with . ? or !
- Use commas in a list: pencils, paper, and books.
- Use an apostrophe for contractions (don't) and possession (Mr. O's class).
- Put quotation marks around exact words: "Read daily," said Mr. O.

MR. O SAYS: Sentence Stretching: start small and add details. 'The dog barked.' → 'The hungry brown dog barked loudly at the mail carrier this morning.' Who? What? Where? When? How? Why?

Practice Bar 6

Stretch this sentence by answering who, what, where, when, and why: 'The boy ran.'

Combine into a compound sentence: 'I was tired.' + 'I finished my homework.'

Chapter 7: Paragraph Writing

A paragraph is a group of sentences about ONE main idea. Think of it like a burger — every layer has a job.

Burger Layer	Paragraph Part	What It Does
Top Bun	Topic Sentence	States the main idea
Lettuce	Detail/Evidence #1	Supports the main idea
Tomato	Detail/Evidence #2	Adds more support
Patty	Detail/Evidence #3 + Explanation	The meat — explain WHY it matters
Bottom Bun	Concluding Sentence	Wraps it up; restates the main idea in new words

Transition Words

To Add	To Show Order	To Contrast	To Conclude
also, in addition, furthermore	first, next, then, finally	however, but, on the other hand	in conclusion, overall, as a result

Model Paragraph

Reading every day can change a student's life. First, reading builds vocabulary because readers see new words in context. In addition, reading improves writing, since students learn how sentences and stories are put together. Finally, reading helps students imagine new places and ideas, which builds creativity. Overall, a few pages a day can make a big difference.

Your Turn

Topic: Why is music important to you? Write a five-sentence burger paragraph.

Chapter 8: Essay Writing

An essay is a group of paragraphs that work together to explain, argue, or tell a story about one big idea. The classic structure is the 5-paragraph essay.

Paragraph	Job
1. Introduction	Hook the reader, give background, and end with your THESIS (your main point + 3 reasons)
2. Body Paragraph 1	Reason #1 + evidence + explanation
3. Body Paragraph 2	Reason #2 + evidence + explanation
4. Body Paragraph 3	Reason #3 + evidence + explanation
5. Conclusion	Restate the thesis in new words, summarize reasons, end with a powerful final thought

Types of Essays

- **Narrative:** tells a story (real or imagined) with characters, setting, and events.
- **Informative/Expository:** teaches or explains a topic with facts.
- **Argumentative/Persuasive:** takes a side (a claim) and supports it with evidence; addresses the other side (counterclaim).
- **Literary Analysis:** explains a theme, character, or author's choice using text evidence.

Hooks That Grab Attention

- Question: Have you ever felt like giving up?
- Shocking fact: Many students read below grade level.
- Quote: "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."
- Mini-story: The first time I stood on stage, my hands were shaking.

Thesis Formula

Topic + Opinion/Claim + 3 Reasons = Thesis

Example: Schools should offer music classes because music builds confidence, improves memory, and brings students together.

Essay Planner

Part	My Notes
Hook	
Thesis	

Reason 1 + Evidence	
Reason 2 + Evidence	
Reason 3 + Evidence	
Conclusion / Final thought	

MR. O SAYS: Rough draft → Revise (make it better: add, remove, move, replace) → Edit (fix capitals, usage, punctuation, spelling — CUPS) → Publish. Even the greatest rappers write more than one draft.

Chapter 9: Annotation — Talk Back to the Text

Annotation means marking up a text while you read — underlining, circling, and writing notes in the margins. It turns reading from passive (just looking at words) into active (thinking, questioning, connecting).

Why Annotation Matters

- It keeps your brain focused while you read.
- It helps you remember what you read.
- It helps you find evidence fast when you write or answer questions.
- It shows your teacher (and you!) your thinking.
- Strong readers in college and careers annotate everything.

Mr. O's Annotation Code

Symbol	Meaning
___ Underline	Main idea or key detail
() Circle	Unknown or important vocabulary word
?	I have a question or I'm confused
!	Surprising or exciting
★	Very important — possible evidence
→ or C	Connection (to me, another text, or the world)
P	Prediction
Margin note	Summarize the paragraph in 5 words or less

Practice Annotation

Annotate this passage using the code above:

Frederick Douglass was born into slavery in Maryland around 1818. Although it was against the law to teach enslaved people to read, he secretly learned by trading bread with local boys in exchange for lessons. Douglass later escaped to freedom and became one of the most powerful speakers and writers in American history. He believed that knowledge was the pathway from slavery to freedom.

Chapter 10: Citing Text Evidence

Text evidence is proof from the reading that supports your answer. Teachers and tests don't just want your opinion — they want you to **SHOW** where you found it.

The RACE Strategy

Letter	Step	Example
R	Restate the question	Douglass believed that reading was important...
A	Answer the question	...because it led to freedom.
C	Cite evidence from the text	The text states, "He believed that knowledge was the pathway from slavery to freedom."
E	Explain the evidence	This shows that Douglass saw reading as power, not just a school skill.

Evidence Sentence Starters

- According to the text, ...
- The author states, "..."
- In paragraph 2, it says ...
- For example, the text explains ...
- This shows that ... / This proves that ...

Quote vs. Paraphrase

- **Quote:** the author's exact words inside quotation marks.
- **Paraphrase:** the author's idea in YOUR own words (still give credit).
- **Always:** tell where the evidence came from — title, author, or paragraph number.

MR. O SAYS: No evidence, no credit. If you can't point to it in the text, it's just a rumor.

Chapter 11: Research Skills

Research means finding, checking, and using information to answer a question. It's how scholars, scientists, and journalists learn the truth.

The 6-Step Research Process

22. Ask a question (What do I want to know?)
23. Find sources (books, encyclopedias, trusted websites, interviews)
24. Check sources for credibility
25. Take notes in your own words
26. Organize your notes into an outline
27. Write and cite your sources

Is This Source Credible? The CRAAP Test

Letter	Question
Currency	Is it recent?
Relevance	Does it answer my question?
Authority	Who wrote it? Are they an expert?
Accuracy	Can I find the same facts somewhere else?
Purpose	Is it to inform, or to sell or persuade?

Websites ending in .gov and .edu are often reliable. Be careful with social media posts, ads, and sites with no author.

Primary vs. Secondary Sources

- **Primary:** firsthand — diaries, speeches, photographs, interviews, original documents.
- **Secondary:** secondhand — textbooks, encyclopedias, biographies, articles about an event.

Simple Citation Format

Book: Author Last, First. Title. Publisher, Year.

Website: Author (if known). "Page Title." Website Name, Date, URL.

Note-Taking Organizer

Source	Fact (in my words)	Page / URL

Chapter 12: SCEPS — Break Down Any Story



SCEPS is Mr. O's tool for summarizing and analyzing any story, chapter, movie, or historical event. If you can name the SCEPS, you understand the story.

Letter	Stands For	What to Look For
S	Setting	Where and when the story or event takes place (e.g., location, time period, atmosphere).
C	Characters	The key people or figures involved.
E	Events	The major plot points or occurrences in sequence.
P	Problems	The main conflicts, challenges, or issues.
S	Solutions	How the problems are resolved, addressed, or changed.

SCEPS Example: The Three Little Pigs

SCEPS	Answer
Setting	The countryside, once upon a time
Characters	Three pigs and a big bad wolf
Events	Each pig builds a house (straw, sticks, bricks); the wolf blows down the first two

Problems	The wolf wants to eat the pigs
Solutions	The brick house holds strong; the pigs are safe and learn that hard work pays off

SCEPS Example: Frederick Douglass (Nonfiction)

SCEPS	Answer
Setting	Maryland, 1800s, during slavery
Characters	Frederick Douglass, local boys, enslavers
Events	Born enslaved, secretly learns to read, escapes, becomes a speaker and writer
Problems	Reading was forbidden; he was not free
Solutions	He learned in secret, escaped, and used words to fight for freedom

Your SCEPS Organizer

SCEPS	My Story: _____
Setting	
Characters	
Events	
Problems	
Solutions	

MR. O SAYS: SCEPS + a theme = a summary. Turn your SCEPS into 3–5 sentences and you've just written a summary paragraph.

Flash Card Vault

Photocopy or cut these out. Drill 10 minutes a day. Keep the ones you know in a 'Got It' pile and the rest in a 'Practice' pile until the Practice pile is empty.

Sight Word Cards

Cut along the lines. Front on the left, back on the right. Fold in the middle so each card has a front and back.

FRONT	BACK
said	sight word
because	sight word
would	sight word
through	sight word
their	belongs to them
they're	they are
there	a place
friend	sight word — 'fri' + 'end'
Wednesday	Wed-nes-day

Spelling the World Cards

Cut along the lines. Front on the left, back on the right. Fold in the middle so each card has a front and back.

FRONT	BACK
Wednesday	3rd weekday (Wed.)
February	2nd month (Feb.)
September	9th month (Sept.)
Massachusetts	Capital: Boston
Mississippi	Capital: Jackson
Connecticut	Capital: Hartford
Florida	Capital: Tallahassee
Pacific	Largest ocean
Arctic	Smallest, coldest ocean

Prefix & Suffix Cards

Cut along the lines. Front on the left, back on the right. Fold in the middle so each card has a front and back.

FRONT	BACK
un-	not
re-	again
pre-	before
dis-	not / opposite
trans-	across
sub-	under
-ful	full of
-less	without
-tion	act or state
-able	can be done

Root Word Cards

Cut along the lines. Front on the left, back on the right. Fold in the middle so each card has a front and back.

FRONT	BACK
bio	life
geo	earth
graph	write
phon	sound
port	carry
spect	look
tele	far
dict	say
rupt	break
chron	time

ELA Concept Cards

Cut along the lines. Front on the left, back on the right. Fold in the middle so each card has a front and back.

FRONT	BACK
Annotation	Marking up text with notes and symbols while reading
Text Evidence	Proof from the text that supports an answer
Thesis	The main point of an essay
Etymology	The study of word origins
Setting (S)	Where and when
Characters (C)	Who is involved
Events (E)	What happens in order
Problems (P)	Conflicts or challenges
Solutions (S)	How problems are resolved

Answer Key

Practice Bar 1

A: sh, ph, wh, ch, th. B: tape, huge, note, pine. C: bas-ket-ball, nap-kin, ro-bot, can-dle, re-mem-ber.

Practice Bar 3

1) On Wednesday we flew to New Jersey. 2) My birthday is in February. 3) The Pacific Ocean is bigger than the Atlantic Ocean. 4) We visited Chicago, Illinois, in August.

Practice Bar 4

1) un + happi + ness = the state of not being happy. 2) pre + view = to see before. 3) bio + graph + y = writing about a life. 4) trans + port + ation = the act of carrying across. 5) mis + spell + ed = spelled wrongly. 6) tele + scope = a tool to see far.

Practice Bar 6

Answers vary. Sample: I was tired, but I finished my homework.

About Mr. O



Mr. O the Hip Hop Teacher is a veteran educator with over 18 years of K–12 classroom experience in New Jersey and Florida. He has taught in urban, suburban, and rural schools, coached basketball, supported students with diverse learning needs, and helped thousands of young people find their voice through reading, writing, and hip-hop-infused learning. He is the founder of Leaders of the Homeschool and a motivational speaker for secondary-school and college audiences.

Keep the beat going:

- Website: leadersofthehomeschool.education — free lessons, printables, and premium content
- YouTube: [@thehiphopteacher](https://www.youtube.com/@thehiphopteacher)
- TikTok: [@thehiphopteachermro](https://www.tiktok.com/@thehiphopteachermro)
- Patreon: patreon.com/cw/Leadersofthehomeschool
- Booking & speaking: thehiphopteacher@gmail.com

If this book helped you, please leave a review on Amazon — it helps other families and teachers find it.