


How to Use the Schedule

More notes with important information about specific assignments. The  symbol provides you with a heads-up about difficult content. We tell you what to expect and often suggest how to talk about it with your kids.


4-Day Schedule:

This entire schedule is for a 4-Day program. We provide a blank cell on Day 5 to allow for your own activities and topics that you would like to teach your children.

Write in the week's date for your records.

We schedule your optional Language Arts workbooks for you.

Additional space for your record keeping.

KINDERGARTEN		WEEK 1				SCHEDULE
Date:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	
Phonics/Spelling						
Letters Learned So Far	Ff					
My First Picture Dictionary	F pages					
Language and Phonics Activities		Measurement: Pounds and Ounces	Measurement: Other Vocabulary	Tactile Letters		
Optional: Get Set for the Code	pp. 1-4	pp. 5-8	pp. 9-11	pp. 12-14		
Handwriting						
Handwriting Without Tears	p. 12	p. 62				
Creative Expression						
	A: Copywork 1 	B: Copywork Application	C: The News Report	D: Copywork 2		
Other Notes						
<p>Find the Activity Sheets for students directly after the Notes. Find all answers within the Notes.</p> <p>Find all Notes after the Schedule page.</p>						

How to Use the Notes

Grammar/Mechanics

Optional: *Keys to Good Language 5* | Lesson 41

Readers

Just So Stories | “The Sing-Song of Old Man Kangaroo” and “The Beginning of the Armadillo”

Vocabulary Development

Optional: *Wordly Wise 3000, Book 5* | Lesson 9B

Creative Expression

Weekly Overview

Mechanics Practice: identify types of adjectives; demonstrative adjectives v. indefinite adjectives

Creative Expression:

Skill: Proper quotations and paraphrasing

Assignment: Write a Personal Response

Your Response

Look for the “Weekly Overview” table, located in Day 1, for a summary of the lessons and skills covered in the week.

Your children will use the revision checklist on the **Activity Sheet** to revise their responses. See “A: Response” on the **Week 15 Activity Sheet** for an example of what a personal response might look like:

How long is your typical school day? Five hours or so? We may think of learning as something that happens mainly during school, but Bishop T. D. Jakes has said, “The world is a university and everyone in it is a teacher. Make sure when you wake up in the morning you go to school.”

I think this means that you don’t have to be in a classroom to learn. The whole world is filled with opportunities to learn and anyone can teach you something new. We should greet each new day ready to learn from the world and the people in it. As one of those people in the world, this also means that we could possibly be serving as a teacher to someone else, even if that is not our actual profession.

This type of learning experience depends a lot on a person’s attitude. I think that if you wake up each day expecting to learn something new and looking for opportunities to learn or to teach others, then it will happen. Someone with this attitude toward learning was the inventor Thomas Alva Edison. He observed the world around him and questioned everything. He came up with hundreds of inventions to solve the problems he encountered. Edison didn’t always know just how he might solve a problem, but his great attitude toward learning kept him moving toward solutions. He even looked at his many failures as learning experiences.

I’ve found this to be true in my own life as well. I was out playing with a neighbor recently and I learned all about how a bird builds its nest. I wasn’t expecting him to be my teacher that day, but when we found an abandoned nest on the ground, I realized he had a lot to teach me about it. I think it’s great to be open to these kinds of learning experiences.

How to Evaluate This Week’s Assignment

This week’s personal response is two-fold in nature. First of all, your children need to fully understand the meaning of the selected quotation. Additionally, they must apply its meaning to their own life by relating it to experiences, ideas, and intentions. Don’t underestimate the power of the Mind Mapping exercise in helping your child build these connections! The mind map does not need to be perfectly neat, and not all ideas must be used in the written response. Look for improvements between the first draft and revised draft of your children’s response—this can be one of the toughest writing skills for children this age to master. The improvements should focus on the overall message and how it “sounds” rather than the mechanics of how it looks.”

The sample rubric below will help you determine how well your children responded personally to the quotation. Remember, the goal is to connect at many levels with the quotation. The response should show a deep understanding of its meaning and a personal connection to the message. Feel free to adjust the rubric to meet the individual needs of your children. ■

Personal Response Rubric

Personal Response Rubric		
<i>Content</i>		
_____ 5 pts	The response includes an	paraphrase of the quotation
_____ 5 pts	The response has a clear	message
_____ 5 pts	The response includes a p	impact
<i>Mechanics</i>		
_____ 5 pts	The response uses correct	capitalization and punctuation
_____ 5 pts	The response uses correct	spelling
_____ 5 pts	The sentences contain complete	thoughts
_____ ÷ 30 pts possible = _____ %		
Total pts		

“How to Evaluate This Assignment” provides tips on evaluating your children’s work.

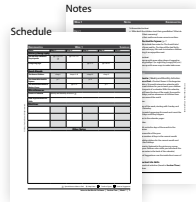
Most lessons include a skills **checklist** or **Rubric** to help you track your children’s progress.

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Instructor's Guide Quick Start

The BookShark™ Instructor's Guide (IG) is designed to make your educational experience as easy as possible. We have carefully organized the materials to help you and your children get the most out of the subjects covered. If you need help reading your schedule, see "How to Use the Schedule" in **Section Four**.

This IG includes a 36-week schedule, notes, assignments, readings, and other educational activities. For specific organizational tips, topics and skills addressed, and other suggestions for the parent/teacher see **Section Three**. Here are some helpful features that you can expect from your IG.



Easy to use

Everything you need is located right after the schedule each week. If a note appears about a concept in a book, it's easy to find it right after the schedule based on the day the relevant reading is scheduled.



4-Day Schedule

Designed to save one day a week for music lessons, sports, field trips, co-ops, or other extra-curricular activities.

Weekly Overview

Mechanics Practice: Commas

Creative Expression:

Skill: Write a hook

Assignment: Write a news story

Weekly Overviews

Summarize lessons, skills, and activities for each week.

Optional: Dictation¹

The soldier knocked open the top of the box and held up a square brown solid-looking object. "What have we here?" he cried. "Hardtack, boys. And it ain't changed a bit. Good for hammering nails or using as shoe soles or even melting down for bullets. But not much for eating, I'll say." He dropped it back in the box and it hit with a

Dictation

Weekly passages prompt children to pay attention to grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation. Sometimes an activity is assigned that uses the passage to introduce a grammatical or writing activity topic.

Sample Rubric

Key: Excelled: ✓+ Met Expectation: ✓ In Progress: ✓-

Content

- Used imagination to think about life from a different perspective.
- Creatively problem-solved issues a two-

Rubrics

Methods to evaluate your children's writing, like rubrics, make measuring progress quick and easy.

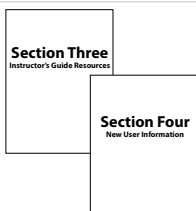
Activity Sheets

Activity Sheets follow each week's notes and are customized for each lesson to emphasize important points in fun ways. They are designed with different skills and interests in mind. You may want to file them in a separate binder for your student's use.

Activity Sheet


- Briefly explain how commas are used in each sentence below.
 - As a matter of fact, I would love to eat ice cream.

 - Natalia, would you like to dance with me?




Instructor's Guide Resources and New User Information

Don't forget to familiarize yourself with some of the great helps in **Section Three** and **Section Four** so you'll know what's there and can turn to it when needed.

Date:	Day 1 ₁	Day 2 ₂	Day 3 ₃	Day 4 ₄	Day 5 ₅
Spelling					
<i>Spelling You See</i>					
Handwriting					
Optional: Handwriting					
Grammar/Mechanics					
Optional: <i>Grammar Ace</i>	Lesson 1: Nouns				
Readers					
<i>Om-kas-toe</i>	chap. 1	chap. 2	chap. 3	chap. 4	
Vocabulary Development					
Optional: <i>Wordly Wise 3000, Book 4</i>	Lesson 1A		Lesson 1B	Lesson 1C	
Creative Expression					
	A: Dictation Passage 	B: Dictation Application	C: In A Nutshell	D: Book Commercial	
Other Notes					
Optional books are sold separately.					

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 Special Note to Mom or Dad

Day 1

Spelling

Spelling You See

To improve your children's spelling, complete daily spelling exercises. We recommend the *Spelling You See* program. Use the "Spelling" line on your weekly schedule to record what you have done each week.

Handwriting

Consider handwriting instruction at this level optional—use a formal handwriting program only if your children need practice.

We offer *Handwriting Without Tears* for your handwriting program. Use the line in your weekly schedule page to record what your children do. If you would like help scheduling *Handwriting Without Tears*, please go online to <http://www.bookshark.com/handwriting-schedules> and download and print the appropriate file.

If you didn't purchase this package or have another handwriting program you are using, please feel free to skip over this section.

Grammar/Mechanics

Do BookShark's *Grammar Ace* for one year between 4th–7th grade. Choose the grade that works best for your children. We have included the schedule for *Grammar Ace* in this Guide.

Optional: *Grammar Ace* | Lesson 1: Nouns

Mechanics Instruction Included in this Guide

In order to hone the technical side of your children's writing efforts, this program also includes one brief lesson each week that introduces them to a grammatical or mechanical topic. We include these lessons as a part of your Day 1 Creative Expression assignment, under the "Mechanics Practice" header.

Readers

Note: If you are using the Language Arts Guide along with our History Guide, please note the Readers schedule appears in both guides and are identical. However, the History Guide includes discussion questions and answers as well some Timeline and Map Activities. We include the schedule here because we sometimes refer to these books for writing assignments.

Om-kas-toe | Chapter 1

Vocabulary Development

Our vocabulary development program is based on and ties in with our History programs' Read-Alouds. You will find all the words and instructions for Vocabulary Development in your History Instructor's Guide in your daily Read-Aloud notes listed as "Vocabulary."

If you'd like more practice, we recommend the *Wordly Wise* program. We schedule this optional workbook for you.

Optional: *Wordly Wise 3000, Book 4* | Lesson 1A

Creative Expression

Weekly Overview

Mechanics Practice:

Skill: Sentence Basics; nouns—common and proper; gender of nouns

Creative Expression:

Skill: Write a definition

Assignment: Write a commercial

Day 1 of the Creative Expression Assignments will include **Diction** and **5-Minute Mechanics** practice for each week of the year. For instructions and tips on completing these assignments please read below. If you are ready to start the assignment please skip to the section header **A: Diction**.

General Creative Expression Instruction

BookShark's Language Arts program is based on the "natural learning approach." "Natural" or "integrated" learning means students learn by discovery. They observe, analyze and then seek to imitate what they have seen a master wordsmith do before them. For more information see "BookShark's Language Arts Philosophy" located in **Section Three**.

Preferred Dictation Method

Ask your children to read through the dictation passage to familiarize themselves with it. They should note any words, capitalizations, or matters of punctuation that require special attention. They should ask you to clarify anything they're unsure about.

Give your children no more than five to ten minutes to prepare to take dictation. Preparation may involve writing out unfamiliar words, practicing spelling them out loud or on paper, trying to remember how a word looks by "seeing" it in their minds, drawing a word in large letters written in mid-air with an imaginary pen, etc. When their time is up, give the dictation, clause by clause, reading each clause only twice (repeating it only once). Your children should write in the cursive style and, as you read the passage to them, you should not emphasize the different sounds in each word.

Before handing their papers to you, your children should check their work for errors. They should mark and correct any errors they find. Discuss with your children what you think they have done particularly well, as well as what they could do better.

If you see consistent spelling, punctuation, or handwriting problems, keep a record on the weekly schedule and review those areas.

About Mechanics Practice

On Day 1 of each week, we offer a brief introduction to one grammatical or mechanical topic. This year your children will work through three basic groups of skills. We will study basic grammar skills in two main sections: **Sentence Basics** (nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.), and **The Building Blocks of Sentences** (phrases, clauses, active and passive voice, etc.). We'll then intersperse the grammatical lessons with common **Mechanics** topics that we'll schedule throughout the year.

Look for the skills covered each week in the "Weekly Overview" table, located at the beginning of the Day 1 Creative Expression Notes. For a 36-week progression of topics and skills studied this year in Language Arts, see our Schedule of Topics and Skills, located in **Section Three**.

Work Independently

This year, in order to enable your children to study independently, you will find the bulk of the Language Arts instruction on the Weekly Activity Sheets, with a small summary of what we teach each day included in your Notes. Feel free to read and work with them through the lessons on the Activity Sheets, or give them the reins to work solo, once you feel they are able to do so.

Feeling Overwhelmed?

Due to the myriad of concepts to cover—many of which may seem abstract—and the subjectivity that evaluating writing assignments often requires, the idea of teaching Language Arts may seem daunting. Understandably! For this reason we have included an article called "Recommendations for Teaching Language Arts" in **Section Three** of this guide to help you navigate your Language Arts journey this year. We hope the suggestions found here will help you determine how to use this program so that it works best for your family, and will provide answers to further teaching questions you may have.

A: Dictation^{1, 2}

Read through the dictation passage with your children. Work with them to note any words, capitalizations, or matters of punctuation that require special attention. Then read the dictation as your children write it down.

"What is a friend? A single soul dwelling in two bodies."

1. Quote by Aristotle.

2. Quote by Steve Lopez, *The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music* (<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=steve+lopez&commit=Search> accessed October, 2013).

"...a friend is someone who inspires, who challenges, who sends you in search of some truer sense of yourself..."

5-Minute Mechanics

Today your children will learn about **common** and **proper nouns**, and the **gender of nouns**—*feminine, masculine, neuter* and *indefinite*. See the **Week 1 Activity Sheet** for more information. If your children have trouble distinguishing all of the nouns from the dictation passage, have them look up words they are uncertain about in the dictionary.

Answers

1. **Common Nouns:** *time, day, year, gold, months, rush (in this context); Proper Nouns: *January, California, Gold Rush.**
2. *All of the nouns in the passage are neuter—they are all objects or ideas, which are neither male nor female.*

Optional: Dictation³

For your convenience, we provide an additional dictation passage each week. If your children are having an "off" day, just use one of these alternative dictation passages as your writing assignment for the day. Feel free to take a break instead of trying to grind your way through the regular assignment.

The boy had seen for himself how the wolves worked together to make the kill. Each wolf did its job. Their plan was perfect. One wolf alone could never have trapped the deer. The whole pack was needed, and the whole pack would enjoy the meat.

Day 2

Raders

Om-kas-toe | Chapter 2

Creative Expression

B: Dictation Application

Today, your children will write their own brief definition of friendship. Using the passage provided for inspiration, they will contemplate their own definition and explain it in a few sentences. See "B: Dictation Application" on the **Week 1 Activity Sheet** for more details.

3. *Om-kas-toe*, p. 16.

Day 3

Readers

Om-kas-toe | Chapter 3

Vocabulary Development

Optional: Wordly Wise 3000, Book 4 | Lesson 1B

Creative Expression

C: In a Nutshell

Tomorrow, your children will write a book commercial for a book they've enjoyed recently. Feel free to have your children read the cover of the book for ideas. The questions on "C: In a Nutshell" on the **Week 1 Activity Sheet** will help your children prepare for tomorrow's commercial.

Day 4

Readers

Om-kas-toe | Chapter 4

Vocabulary Development

Optional: Wordly Wise 3000, Book 4 | Lesson 1C

Creative Expression

D: Book Commercial

Today, your children's assignment is to write a short book commercial about the book they have chosen. They will first take notes on any important facts they want to include, using the space under "D: Book Commercial" on the **Week 1 Activity Sheet**. Then, encourage them to make a clear outline of the commercial. Finally, your children will write out their short commercial on separate sheet of paper.

The purpose of the book commercial is to reinforce the skill of summarizing. Here's a brief book commercial you could read to your children as an example:

Are the winter blahs getting you down? Looking to add some excitement and adventure to your days? Then head to your nearest bookstore and pick up a copy of *The Magician's Nephew* by C.S. Lewis! You will experience heart-pounding suspense as Digory and Polly accidentally sneak into the attic workroom of Uncle Andrew – an odd magical tinkerer. What happens when they are tricked into testing out his magic rings? We won't give away the ending, but we will tell you that it involves a mysterious forest, an evil witch, a great lion, and the birth of Narnia! You'll be staying up late trying to squeeze in one more page of *The Magician's Nephew*!

How to Evaluate This Assignment

For this assignment, focus on your children's summarization skills. When they're done, evaluate their work. Is their commercial focused and concise? Does it contain only relevant information? Are there any unnecessary details they should have left out? Is their book report too short or too long? What about their opinion of the book? Is it stated clearly and reasoned well? Discuss your thoughts with your children.

The sample rubric below will help you determine how well your children wrote their commercial. Feel free to adjust the rubric to meet the individual needs of your children. ■

Book Commercial Rubric		
<i>Content</i>		
_____	5 pts	The writing provides an adequate summary of the book, including necessary details
_____	5 pts	The writing clearly states an opinion about the book
_____	5 pts	The writing uses language effectively to engage and persuade the audience
<i>Mechanics</i>		
_____	5 pts	The sentences express complete thoughts
_____	5 pts	The writing uses correct spelling
_____	5 pts	The writing uses correct capitalization and punctuation
_____	÷ 30 pts possible = _____ %	
Total pts		

LA Week 1 Activity Sheet

A: Dictation Passage^{1,2}

Read through the dictation passage. Note any words, capitalizations, or matters of punctuation that require special attention.

“What is a friend? A single
soul dwelling in two bodies.”

“...a friend is someone who
inspires, who challenges, who
sends you in search of some
truer sense of yourself...”

5-Minute Mechanics

A **noun** is a word that names a person, place, thing or idea. A **proper noun** names a specific person, place, thing or idea, such as Pittsburgh, Mary, or BookShark. **Common nouns** do not name something specific: tomato, pencil, park. Proper nouns are always capitalized, whereas common nouns are not.

Did you know that nouns can also denote **gender**? Nouns can be *feminine, masculine, neuter* or *indefinite*? For example:

	Example:
Feminine: (female)	mother, aunt, hen, waitress
Masculine: (male)	father, uncle, rooster, waiter
Neuter: (neither male nor female)	table, lamp, car
Indefinite: (either male or female)	teacher, children, horse

Nouns may either be **concrete** objects (like a *pool* or a *trampoline*) or an **abstract** idea (like love, sadness, or justice). **Compound nouns** are made up of two or more words (like *firetruck*, *step-sister* or *middle school*), and a **collective noun** names a specific kind of group (like a *gaggle*, *herd*, or *team*).

- After reading the passage below take a moment to underline all of the nouns. When you find a proper noun, underline it twice.

1. Quote by Aristotle.

2. Quote by Steve Lopez, *The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music* (<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=steve+lopez&commit=Search> accessed October, 2013).

- Then discuss with Mom or Dad what gender each noun in the passage is and why. Are they all the same, or are there a few different types? How can you tell?

It was not once upon a time—it was precisely the twenty-seventh day of January in the year 1849. Gold had been discovered in California some twelve months before and now, in a rush, the Gold Rush was on.³

B: Dictation Application

This week’s dictation passage features two eloquent explanations of friendship. Reread the dictation passage and then spend a few minutes contemplating friendship. What does the word mean to you? How would you explain friendship to a friend? Which of the two definitions do you resonate with more?

Using the dictation passage as inspiration, write your own definition of friendship. How would you sum up the word? What is the essence of friendship? What does the word mean to you personally?

C: In a Nutshell


Have you ever seen a commercial that persuaded you to buy a product? Tomorrow, you will write a book commercial for a book you’ve enjoyed recently. Your book commercial should seek to encourage others to read the book. You can get ideas for your commercial by reading the cover of the book or online reviews.

Today, pick out a story you have read recently and summarize it. Which details are important and which details are not important to the plot? Use the questions below to guide you as you try your hand at summarizing:

3. *By the Great Horn Spoon*, p. 3.

Date:	Day 1 <small>6</small>	Day 2 <small>7</small>	Day 3 <small>8</small>	Day 4 <small>9</small>	Day 5 <small>10</small>
Spelling					
<i>Spelling You See</i>					
Handwriting					
Grammar/Mechanics					
Optional: <i>Grammar Ace</i>	Lesson 2: Verbs				
Readers					
<i>Om-kas-toe</i>	chap. 5	chap. 6	chap. 7	chap. 8	
Vocabulary Development					
Optional: <i>Wordly Wise 3000, Book 4</i>	Lesson 1D		Lesson 1E & Vocabulary Extension	Lesson 2A	
Creative Expression					
	A: Dictation Passage	B: Our Household's Preamble	C: To Form a More Perfect Union	D: The Law of the Land	
Other Notes					

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 Special Note to Mom or Dad

Day 1

Grammar/Mechanics

Optional: Grammar Ace | Lesson 2: Verbs

Readers

Om-kas-toe | Chapter 5

Vocabulary Development

Optional: Wordly Wise 3000, Book 4 | Lesson 1D

Creative Expression

Weekly Overview

Mechanics:

Skill: Varying sentence length; subjects and predicates

Creative Expression:

Skill: Learn about the U.S. Constitution

Assignment: Write an essay

A: Dictation Passage¹

Read through the dictation passage with your children. Work with them to note any words, capitalizations, or matters of punctuation that require special attention. Then read the dictation as your children write it down.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

5-Minute Mechanics

Today your children will learn about the different **types of subjects and predicates**, and will learn how to shorten lengthy sentences.

Below “5-Minute Mechanics” on the **Week 2 Activity Sheet**, your children will rewrite the preamble in a couple of shorter sentences, or as one longer and a few shorter sentences. Discuss how varying sentence length can make a passage easier and more interesting to read.

Answers

1. *The People of the United States*
2. *compound predicate*

Here’s an example of what a revised preamble might look like:

We the People of the United States, work in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice and insure domestic Tranquility. We also provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity. We do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Optional: Dictation²

She told the men that she believed that the twins were a gift from the Above One. She believed the twins would bring good medicine to the band. Tall Women pleaded and pleaded to be allowed to keep the tiny babies.

Day 2

Readers

Om-kas-toe | Chapter 6

Creative Expression

B: Our Household’s Preamble

This week your children will use the Preamble to the United States Constitution as inspiration to write their own preamble to a set of bylaws for your household. If they want to write the bylaws (rules) as well, feel free to let them. All that’s required today, though, is a preamble.

If your children were to write a set of rules for your household, what rules might they create? More importantly, why would they create those rules? These purposes will be the essence of their preamble. Feel free to give them any assistance they need.

For more information, see the “B: Our Household’s Preamble” on the **Week 2 Activity Sheet**.

Here’s what a sample preamble might look like:

We the Children of the Bolin Household, in Order to get along together like Good Children should, create Fair Rules, help Mom keep her Sanity, encourage Peace and Quiet, and obtain the Blessings of our Elders to ourselves, do ordain and establish these Bylaws for the Household of Bolin.

1. Preamble to the United States Constitution.

2. *Om-kas-toe*, p. 19.

Day 3

Readers

Om-kas-toe | Chapter 7


Vocabulary Development

Optional: Wordly Wise 3000, Book 4 | Lesson 1E
& Vocabulary Extension

Creative Expression

C: To Form a More Perfect Union

This week, your children will write a brief explanation on the birth of the United States Constitution. Today, in preparation for tomorrow’s writing assignment, read the article under the “C: To Form a More Perfect Union” section on the **Week 2 Activity Sheet** with your children. Then have them answer the questions that follow to better solidify the key points in their minds.

Your children will also want to make notes of interesting facts that they might be able to use for a hook to start their paper tomorrow. If you’d like your children to investigate the birth of the Constitution beyond our article, check out our IG links page  for some suggested websites you might like them to browse. If they want, they can get a head start on tomorrow’s assignment by turning their research notes into a rough outline today. See the Activity Sheet for more information.

Day 4

Readers

Om-kas-toe | Chapter 8

Vocabulary Development

Optional: Wordly Wise 3000, Book 4 | Lesson 2A

Creative Expression

D: The Law of the Land

Today your children will write a brief explanation of how and why the United States Constitution was born. However, we have challenged them to find some way to creatively relay the information they collected in their research yesterday. Feel free to touch base with them to find out how they’re planning to present their report, and possibly redirect them or challenge them further if their plans seem misguided.

For more information, see the “D: The Law of the Land” assignment on the **Week 2 Activity Sheet**.

How to Evaluate This Assignment

To evaluate your children’s work, turn the tables on them today! When they’re done, ask *them* to evaluate their own work. What do they think they did well? What do they believe they could’ve done better? Discuss their thoughts with them. Do you agree? What did you like? What do you think they could’ve done better? As always, praise them for anything they did that showed progress or special creativity.

Use the rubric below to help you evaluate this week’s assignment. Feel free to adjust our rubric to meet the individual needs of your children. ■

Essay Rubric		
<i>Content</i>		
_____	2 pts	I started my essay with an interesting hook
_____	5 pts	I clearly explained how and why the Constitution came to be
_____	5 pts	I included interesting and important historical facts related to the topic
_____	3 pts	I used language effectively to engage readers
<i>Mechanics</i>		
_____	5 pts	I used complete sentences
_____	5 pts	I used correct spelling
_____	5 pts	I used correct capitalization and punctuation
_____	÷ 30 pts possible = _____ %	
Total pts		

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LA Week 2 Activity Sheet

The Great Compromise

One of the biggest concerns throughout the rule-making process was how to let each state have an equal voice in the decisions that were made, and yet ensure that individual citizens were equally represented, too. If each state was only allowed one vote for all decisions, would this fairly represent states with large populations against those with smaller populations?

For example, say your family is having a vote about what to have for dessert. The 6 kids would like to have ice cream, but Mom and Dad only want to have applesauce. If “The State of the Kids” gets one vote, and “The State of Mom” and “The State of Dad” each get a vote, the kids will be out-voted!

States	Ice Cream	Applesauce
The State of the Kids (6)	1	
The State of Mom (1)		1
The State of Dad (1)		1

But what if the rules were that for every 2 people in your state, you get one vote? Suddenly, the votes would turn out like so:

States	Ice Cream	Applesauce
The State of the Kids (6)	3	
The State of Mom (1)		1
The State of Dad (1)		1

But which is more fair? The Founding Fathers were faced with the same question. Since the delegates at the Constitutional Convention couldn't agree, Connecticut delegate Robert Sherman presented the *Great Compromise* to the Convention. He suggested that the legislature of the federal government consist of 2 houses. The Senate would have an equal number of representatives from each state, which would ensure that smaller states had an equal say. The House of Representatives, on the other hand, would include one representative for every 30,000 individuals in a state. This would ensure that opinions of the individuals in states with larger populations would also be heard.

Ratification: Make it So

Once the delegates completed the first draft of the Constitution, they sent the document to the Continental Congress (the people who governed the states during the Revolution). The Continental Congress decided that the Constitution should be sent to the individual states to be *ratified*, or approved, before the new rules could go into effect. People who supported the rules in the Constitution, the Federalists, began to publish articles to convince others to support ratification. They believed that the system of checks and balances outlined in the Constitution would ensure the freedom of the people and yet balance the power of the federal government between the three branches. The essays the Federalists wrote are now known as *The Federalist Papers*.


The Bill of Rights

Even with The Great Compromise in place, there were some delegates who would not approve of the first draft of the Constitution. These delegates believed that such an important document should outline the rights of individual citizens as well. The Convention agreed and promised to include these rights in the final version. When the first Congress met in 1789, they immediately considered several amendments. James Madison wrote a total of twelve amendments outlining the rights of individuals which were presented to the States for their final approval. Only ten of the original twelve amendments were approved. These ten amendments to the Constitution form the Bill of Rights.

1. Who drafted the United States Constitution? Why did they do it?

Date:	Day 1 <small>11</small>	Day 2 <small>12</small>	Day 3 <small>13</small>	Day 4 <small>14</small>	Day 5 <small>15</small>
Spelling					
<i>Spelling You See</i>					
Handwriting					
Grammar/Mechanics					
Optional: <i>Grammar Ace</i>	Lesson 3: Sentences				
Readers					
<i>Om-kas-toe</i>	chap. 9	chap. 10	chap. 11	chap. 12	
Vocabulary Development					
Optional: <i>Wordly Wise 3000, Book 4</i>	Lesson 2B		Lesson 2C	Lesson 2D	
Creative Expression					
	A: Dictation Passage	B: Homophones	C: Grateful	D: Thanks a Million!	
Other Notes					

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 Special Note to Mom or Dad

Day 1

Grammar/Mechanics

Optional: Grammar Ace | Lesson 3: Sentences

Readers

Om-kas-toe | Chapter 9

Vocabulary Development

Optional: Wordly Wise 3000, Book 4 | Lesson 2B

Creative Expression

Weekly Overview

Mechanics:

Skill: Abbreviations

Creative Expression:

Skill: Recognize homophones

Assignment: Write a thank-you note

A: Dictation Passage¹

Now all the men could talk about was how to get more of these amazing animals. How could they get them? Their enemies would never give them away or even trade for them. The only way the Blackfeet could get more elkdogs would be to take them from the enemy. This would be dangerous.

5-Minute Mechanics

Today, your children will learn about **abbreviations**. In preparation for writing and addressing a thank-you note later this week, they will practice writing state abbreviations.

See “5-Minute Mechanics” on the **Week 3 Activity Sheet** for more information.

Optional: Dictation²

“This is not a good place,” Otterman said quietly. “The land is too rough. Too much rock. Too many fallen trees. Our escape would be slow. We must follow the enemy to a better place. Then we will attack, take the elkdogs, and make our escape.”

1. *Om-kas-toe*, p. 132

2. *Om-kas-toe*, p. 187.

Day 2

Readers

Om-kas-toe | Chapter 10

Creative Expression

B: Homophones

A **homophone** is a word that sounds the same as another word but does not mean the same thing. Homophones may be spelled the same, or they may be spelled differently. Under “B: Homophones” on the **Week 3 Activity Sheet**, your children will identify homophones in the passage and then write two sentences, each of which should feature a homophone pair used correctly.

Answers

which—witch, too—to — two, for—four, our—hour, there—they’re

Answers will vary: The badger knew the new squirrel was going to be trouble. He ate all eight nuts for breakfast!

Day 3

Readers

Om-kas-toe | Chapter 11

Vocabulary Development

Optional: Wordly Wise 3000, Book 4 | Lesson 2C

Creative Expression

C: Grateful

Tomorrow, your children’s task will be to write a short thank-you note to a friend or relative. The questions under “C: Grateful” on the **Week 3 Activity Sheet** will guide your children as they prepare for their assignment tomorrow. Enjoy this time with your children. Use it to nurture a grateful heart within them.

Day 4

Readers

Om-kas-toe | Chapter 12

Vocabulary Development

Optional: Wordly Wise 3000, Book 4 | Lesson 2D

Creative Expression

D: Thanks a Million!

Today, your children will write a brief thank-you note to a friend or relative based on their notes from yesterday's activity.

Section "D: Thanks a Million!" on the **Week 3 Activity Sheet** outlines some rules for writing a short note as well as an example. We understand your children's thank-you notes will most likely be less exciting than our example, but that's OK. When they're finished, let them mail their note. It's never too early to get your children in the habit and practice of writing and mailing thank-you notes to loved ones.

How to Evaluate This Assignment

For this assignment, keep the focus on the purpose and enjoyment of the task. Yes, the envelope needs to be addressed correctly in order to reach its destination and the letter must be legible and make sense, but this is not an English exam. It is a way to show your children a real-world application for writing. Hopefully, brightening someone's day will be encouragement to make writing thank-you notes a lifelong habit.

The sample rubric below will help you determine how well your children wrote their thank-you note. Feel free to adjust the rubric to meet the individual needs of your children. ■

Thank-You Note Rubric		
<i>Content</i>		
_____	5 pts	The purpose for the note is expressed clearly
_____	5 pts	The note includes a greeting, body, closing, and signature
_____	5 pts	The note uses language effectively to describe thoughts, feelings, and details
<i>Mechanics</i>		
_____	5 pts	The envelope is addressed correctly
_____	5 pts	The note uses correct spelling
_____	5 pts	The note uses correct capitalization and punctuation
_____	÷ 30 pts possible = _____ %	
Total pts		

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LA Week 3 Activity Sheet

A: Dictation Passage¹

Read through the dictation passage. Note any words, capitalizations, or matters of punctuation that require special attention.

Now all the men could talk
 about was how to get more
 of these amazing animals.
 How could they get them?
 Their enemies would never
 give them away or even trade
 for them. The only way the
 Blackfeet could get more elk-
 dogs would be to take them
 from the enemy. This would
 be dangerous.

5-Minute Mechanics

Review the tables of abbreviations below as you prepare to write a thank you note to mail later in the week.

State Abbreviations			
Alabama	AL	Montana	MT
Alaska	AK	Nebraska	NE
Arizona	AZ	Nevada	NV
Arkansas	AR	New Hampshire	NH
California	CA	New Jersey	NJ
Colorado	CO	New Mexico	NM
Connecticut	CT	New York	NY
Delaware	DE	North Carolina	NC
District of Columbia	DC	North Dakota	ND
Florida	FL	Ohio	OH
Georgia	GA	Oklahoma	OK
Hawaii	HI	Oregon	OR
Idaho	ID	Pennsylvania	PA

State Abbreviations			
Illinois	IL	Rhode Island	RI
Indiana	IN	South Carolina	SC
Iowa	IA	South Dakota	SD
Kansas	KS	Tennessee	TN
Kentucky	KY	Texas	TX
Louisiana	LA	Utah	UT
Maine	ME	Vermont	VT
Maryland	MD	Virginia	VA
Massachusetts	MA	Washington	WA
Michigan	MI	West Virginia	WV
Minnesota	MN	Wisconsin	WI
Mississippi	MS	Wyoming	WY
Missouri	MO		

Address Abbreviations					
Avenue	AVE	Heights	HTS	South	S
Boulevard	BLVD	Highway	HWY	Square	SQ
Court	CT	Lane	LN	Station	STA
Drive	DR	North	N	Street	ST
East	E	Road	RD	West	W
		Circle	CIR		

Write the names of 5 states and their abbreviations below:

1. *Om-kas-toe*, p. 132.

LA Week 3 Activity Sheet

B: Homophones

A **homophone** is a word that sounds the same as another word but does not mean the same thing. Homophones may be spelled the same, or they may be spelled differently. Here are some examples:

deer/dear

be/bee

piece/peace

Read the passage below. What homophones can you find in the passage? Write down the homophones you found in the space provided below.

Chelsea the good witch reminded Ella, "Once you get there, don't stay too long at the ball. You only have an hour before your gown changes back into rags. Your four horses will also turn back into mice."

Ella had two goals, but she didn't know which to attempt first. "Should I speak to our king or head for the dance floor?" she wondered. "They're all dancing, so I guess I'll join them," she decided.

Homophones:

Now, write two sentences of your own, each of which features a homophone pair used correctly:

1.

2.

C: Grateful

Tomorrow, you write a short thank-you note to a friend or relative. Have you had a birthday or received any gifts recently? If so, you should have plenty of people you could thank.

If you are in the midst of a holiday or birthday drought, you can still write a thank-you note. Maybe someone has been especially kind to you recently. Perhaps a friend has done a special favor for you lately?

Spend some time thinking about all the things you have to be thankful for. Think beyond mere gifts or special favors. What about all the special people in your life? Is there someone to whom you'd like to send a note just to say "I'm thankful to know you"?

Answer the questions below to prepare for your assignment tomorrow.

1. What's the best gift you've been given recently?

2. What's the nicest thing anyone has done for you lately?

3. Who are you really happy is in your life?

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LA Week 3 Activity Sheet

4. Are there people you're really thankful for, but you haven't told them so lately?

D: Thanks a Million!

Today, you will write a brief thank-you note to a friend or relative. Yesterday, you decided who you want to write to and what you want to thank him or her for. Use your notes from yesterday's activity to help write your thank-you note today.

An informal thank-you note need only follow a few rules of structure: (1) begin the note with a personal greeting (called a salutation), such as Dear _____; (2) include a couple of paragraphs that explain the purpose of the note (to thank the recipient); and (3) finish the note with a closing sentiment, such as Sincerely or Yours truly, and a signature.

Here's an example of what a short thank-you note might look like:

Dear Margaret,

Thank you so much for the wonderful present. A pet badger has been at the top of my wish list for so long. I thought I might never actually get one. I named her Karleen, because she looks kind of like someone I know.

Thanks for coming to my party, too. It was so much fun, even though Karleen stole the snacks and cornered Grandma in the bathroom. I hope to see you again soon. Take care!

Sincerely,

Warren

Write your thank-you note on separate paper or a note-card. With Mom or Dad's permission, address an envelope and mail your thank-you note.

Language Arts 4 Condensed—Scope and Sequence: Schedule for Topics and Skills

Week	Mechanics	Creative Expression
1	Sentence Basics; nouns—common and proper; gender of nouns	In a Nutshell (Summarization) Book Commercial (Persuasive Writing)
2	Varying sentence length; subjects and predicates	To Form a More Perfect Union The Law of the Land
3	Abbreviations; Homophones	Grateful Thanks a Million!
4	Adjectives, Articles and Adverbs	Quartrain (Poetry) Limerick (Poetry)
5	Helping (or auxilliary) verbs	Mystery Girl Portrait of a Charater
6	Implied or understood subject	Why Here? Jamestown
7	Types of sentences; declaritive, imperative, interrogative and exlamatory	Internet Research Library Visit
8	Types of pronouns; singular and plural	Informational Outline Body Paragraphs
9	Combining sentences	Introduction and Conclusion Final Copy & Works Cited
10	Adverbs of place; similes and metaphors	My Favorite Room Speechwriter
11	Person of pronouns—first, second, third	Remember When The Neatest Thing Happened the Other Day
12	Run-on sentences and rambling sentences	Devour This Book! Back Cover Copy
13	Voice—active and passive	Personification (Figurative Language) A Gold Nugget's Tale (Short Story/Narration)
14	Independent clauses; coordinating and correlative conjunctions	Five Parts of the Friendly Letter (Structure) Write the Friendly Letter (Organization)
15	Dependent clauses and subordinating conjunctions	Character Description Character Jack
16	Commas	The Narrative Poem Poetically Speak (Poetry/Narration)
17	Types of pronouns; relative, interrogative, demonstrative; Types of adjectives; demonstrative and indefinite	Rules and Commands (Imperative Sentences) A Bill of Rights (Statements)
18	Writing numbers	The Topic Sentence (Structure) Write & Revise a Formal Business Letter (Organization)
19	Intensive, reflexive and indefinite pronouns	Metaphors (Figurative Language) Definition Poem/Limerick (Poetry)
20	Perfect verb tenses—present, past and future perfect	Transitions (Structure) Follow & Write Directions (Expository Writing)
21	Colons & semicolons	Hyperbole (Figurative Language) A Tall Tale (Use of Exaggeration)

(continued on the following page)

Language Arts 4 Condensed—Scope and Sequence: Schedule for Topics and Skills

Week	Mechanics	Creative Expression
22	Apostrophes	Outline an Experience (Organization/Writing Process) Spin Your Tale (Narration)
23	Homographs; homonyms	The Venn Diagram (Compare/Contrast) Compare/Contrast Essay (Expository Writing)
24	Phrases: noun and verb	Advertising Techniques (Critical Thinking) The Advertisement (Persuasive Writing)
25	Simple and compound sentences, coordination conjunctions	Retell (Imaginative) Imagine
26	Predicate nouns and adjectives	Hues (Analysis) Reflections on Color (Analysis)
27	Prepositional phrases	Combine Sentences, Part 1 (Sentence Fluency) Family Traditions Essay (Expository Writing)
28	Subject-verb agreement	Combine Sentences, Part 2 (Sentence Fluency) Science Fiction Dialogue (Imaginative Writing)
29	Verb forms; direct objects; transitive and intransitive verbs	The Journal (Personal Response)
30	Similes	Mind/Concept Mapping (Critical Thinking) Create and Write/Explain and Describe (Scientific and Expository)
31	Writing titles	Brainstorming/Drafting a Story Revising a Story
32	Dashes	Retell a Story (Narrative) Writing Prompts
33	Phrases: appositives; Noun/pronoun agreement	Writing a Script for a Puppet Show
34	Capitalization rules	Design an Invitation (Artistic)
35	Hyphens	Book Review Adding Details
36	Adjective forms; superlative, positive and comparative	Organize a Speech Give a Speech

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