

Curriculum Essentials: Grade Two

Medieval and Early Renaissance History: 400–1500 A.D.

The Story of the World, Volume 2: The Middle Ages by Susan Wise Bauer, *Usborne World History – Medieval History*, *National Geographic Beginner’s World Atlas*, other *Usborne* books that relate to the topics below:

- Fall of Rome
- Early Britain
- Augustine, Christianity, monastic life
- The Byzantine Empire
- Merovingian Dynasties
- The Islamic Empire
- Vikings and Normans
- Kings of France and England
- Feudal life, knights, castles
- Age of the Crusades
- Magna Carta
- China, Japan, Mongol Empire
- Marco Polo and the Silk Road
- Kingdoms of Spain and Portugal
- Early explorers
- Plagues and war
- Martin Luther and the Reformation
- Intro to the Renaissance period
- Modern Europe – countries & capital

Reading and Literature

The students will receive daily reading instruction through Reading Mastery’s Signature II or Signature III program, which builds reading skills like fluency, comprehension, concentration, and retention of information. They will also read along with excerpts from the following books, working on vocabulary, descriptive language, and making connections between fictional works and what we learn in history:

On Grade Level Reading Class:

Reading Mastery Signature II program

Accelerated Level Reading Class:

Reading Mastery Signature III program*

Tales of King Arthur by Felicity Brooks

Robin Hood by J. Walker McSpadden*

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert C. O’Bri

*Denotes sections of these texts

Supplemental Literature (Time Permitting):

The Adventures of King Arthur

The Adventures of Robin Hood

Jr. Great Books, 2nd Grade Series

Read-Aloud Selections

The City of Ember by Jeanne duPrau

Various myths relating to history studies

The Sword in the Stone by T.H. White

The Borrowers by Mary Norton

1,001 Arabian Nights retold by Geraldine McCaughrean

The Canterbury Tales retold by Geraldine McCaughrean

The Comedy of Errors

by William Shakespeare

Writing

A review of complete sentences with further work on statements, questions, commands, and exclamations as well as complete sentence answers that use words from the question. Students also work on basic paragraph structure with a focus on the roles of topic, supporting, and concluding sentences and practice their paragraph writing in several subjects including history and science. During the year, students have multiple exposures to reading and writing poetry, friendly letters, and an introduction to editing skills. The second graders will also learn to apply their grammatical knowledge to improve their writing by adding details with adjectives and adverbs.



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Grammar, Mechanics, Usage, Spelling, and Handwriting

The Writing Road to Reading by Romalda Spalding

Reading Works by Jay Patterson

Grammar Works by Jay Patterson

- Review neat handwriting practices
- Punctuation including commas, apostrophes, and an introduction to quotations
- Common, proper, singular, and plural nouns
- Verb conjugation for past, present, and future tenses, singular and plural
- Action, helping, and linking verbs, adjectives, adverbs
- Beginning sentence diagramming – analyzing the role of a word in a sentence
- All phonograms: single-letter, multiple-letter, and rare
- Beginning editing skills, including punctuation, grammar, and spelling

Science

Science and Technology for Children Science Kits, Carolina Biological Supply Company, 2002

- Sink and Float: buoyancy, displacement, effects of weight, density and surface area on buoyancy
- Simple Machines: inclined planes, levers, wheels, etc. and their effects on work
- Weather: cloud formation, air masses, temperature and pressure, instruments to measure weather, ingredients of a storm and storm formation, weather graphing
- Rock Cycle: rocks & minerals, plate tectonics, volcanoes, erosion
- In all units, students learn about the scientific method and how to thoughtfully conduct experiments

Mathematics

Primary Mathematics 2A and *2B*, Singapore Mathematics

Skills

- Continue to build reading skills, focusing on inferring, discussing, and responding through writing
- Continue to build writing skills – not only legible handwriting, but clarity of thought in writing (especially by adding details) and beginning editing skills
- Application of phonograms and spelling rules to words
- Beginning note-taking skills, shown through paragraph summaries and graphic organizers
- Faster “library skills” – using a dictionary, thesaurus, index, etc.
- Automaticity with basic addition and subtraction facts; beginning multiplication and division facts
- Solving word problems by following six basic steps
- Practice basic science skills – observing, classifying, measuring, predicting, inferring and communicating results

Homework & Grading

The second graders should have homework every night, generally consisting of practicing spelling words and math facts, finishing assignments from the school day, and reviewing what was taught earlier through a short written assignment. They will also have some memorization work, such as the monthly poem we learn or a song connected to a unit of study. Second graders should also spend twenty minutes reading each day. This may be something assigned by the teacher or chosen by the student. Second graders are graded based on the skills they display as well as the information they learn. This comes from daily class work, student participation, teacher observation, and formal assessments.