

LANGUAGE ARTS Instructor's Guides

New & Improved!

A new look; teaching scripts, grading rubrics, weekly overview summaries and more!

Teach writing naturally and with confidence!

Sonlight Language Arts IGs walk you through how to teach your children all the vital skills they will need. From Phonics, letter formation, and reading in the very earliest grades, to writing instruction (formal, informal, poetry, prose, fiction, non-fiction, and more), grammar, and all of the other skills that students need to communicate in adulthood.

Language Arts Instructor's Guides include:

- 1 Clear Language Arts instruction**
Our Language Arts programs help you get the most from your studies each day. Simply follow the daily schedule for a well-organized, balanced, complete year of learning. Assignments are as clear and engaging as possible, with an appropriate level of grammar instruction and copywork or dictation. Extensive teaching notes help you instruct your students with excellence, answer questions, and ensure that they grasp key concepts. These explanatory notes help you know both why to teach this way and what your goals are.
- 2 Teaching scripts (in the early grades)**
Read the teaching scripts in the IG when you introduce new ideas, concepts, and assignments (Great for parents just starting to homeschool or to provide extra confidence when teaching!).

- 3 Overview summaries**
Each week, read the summary of what you'll be doing and the concepts you'll cover. Be ready for your assignments, week by week. No surprises.

The assignments progress in a logical order, starting with the simple and moving to the more complex. This applies both within each year, and to all the years as a whole.

- 4 Copywork/Dictation assignments**
Weekly copywork or dictation assignments help children learn the basics of writing by modeling master communicators. Assignments are based on your children's ages and ability levels, and most passages come from their Readers.

Schedule & Notes (Sonlight levels A-C for Reader Levels K-4)

Pick the Language Arts program that is closest to your children's ability level. Take the Language Arts assessment at sonlight.com/assessment to assess their ability level. Then add the same level Readers for each child. Your Language Arts Guide includes the Schedule and Notes for those corresponding Readers.

4 **Creative Expression**

41 Copywork 1

Slowly break down the words **hit**, **rib**, **pit**, and **Tim** by their sounds as you and your children read. Have your children copy them on the **Week 11 Activity Sheet**. Tim is the name of a person. What do we do differently with names? (*We start them with capital letters*)

hit.rib.pit.Tim

42 Copywork Application

Overview
Introduce: root/base words with different initial sounds
Review: names; rhymes; vowel sounds (i)

Together
On the Week 11 Activity Sheet:

- Use the word it as a root or base word. Put different consonants in front of it and see how many words you can form. (*bit, fit, hit, kit, lit, nit, pit, sit, wit, zit*)
- Underline the name. (*Tim*)
- Circle the word that rhymes with **fib**. (*rib*)
- Put a box around all the vowels (i)

hit.rib.pit.Tim

43 The Cat Book

★ Prepare in Advance
Find *The Cat Book* located at the end of this week's notes. Cut along the dotted lines, fold the booklet pages in the middle, and sort the pages in order. You may want to staple a piece of construction paper to the outside if you'd like your children to illustrate the cover of their book, but it's not necessary.

Overview
Write a story to go along with *The Cat Book* illustrations located at the end of this week's notes.

Together
Write the Story
I have a book that already has illustrations, but it's missing the story! Do you think you could help me write the story for it today?
Hand your children The Cat Book booklet.
First, look through the book. Look at all of the pictures to get an idea of how the story might unfold.
Who do you think is the main character?

What will you call him?
What do you think is happening in each picture?
Remember to think about the questions a reader might have:
Why is the cat at the beach?
What does he make?
What does he want to do with the boat?
What solution does he come up with?
How does it work out?
When you're ready, look at the pictures on each page and tell me the story you think goes with them.

6 As they tell you the story, keep an eye on the questions an average reader would have above. Let your interaction with them about their story guide them to answer each question as they write. Feel free to let this creative writing process ebb and flow a little more like a conversation with them about the story, rather than a strict storytelling experience where you simply write down whatever they say without comment.
When they have finished telling the story, work together to make up a title for their new story, and you'll have a new book to practice reading together that your children wrote themselves! Be sure to give them all the help they need. By working together, you'll help them gain confidence in their writing abilities.

7 **How to Evaluate This Assignment**
As you will have worked together to craft this story with your children, formal evaluation isn't crucial. Here is a simple checklist of skills this activity should address.

The Cat Book Skills Checklist
Key: Excelled: ✓+ Met Expectation: ✓ In Progress: →

Content

- Did your children write a story that aligns to the pictures in the book?
- Did your children think creatively and draft an imaginative story?
- Did the story answer the questions a typical reader might have?
- Does the story have a beginning, middle and end?

Presentation

- Optional: Worked with Mom or Dad to "edit" this assignment.

2 **Week Overview**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 743 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Day 44 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 **Weekly Overview**

| Language and Phonics Activities | Letter Pictures | Special Interest Vocabulary | Brain Challenges: Organization | Building Words |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Optional: <i>Get Set for the Code</i> | No assignment this week. | | | |
| <i>Handwriting Without Tears: Letters and Numbers for Me</i> | p. 35 | p. 54 | | |
| Fun Tunes | Read #2: "Tap?" | | | |
| CREATIVE EXPRESSION | Copywork 1 | Copywork Application | The Cat Book | Copywork 2 Optional: Dictionary |
| <i>Other Notes:</i> | | | | |

Letter of the Week: i

Language, Phonics & Spelling:
Special Interest Vocabulary: Introduce your children to vocabulary for topics that are important to your family's life.
Brain Challenges—Organization: Sorting practice.
Building Words: Form words with vowel and consonant cards; letter sound recognition; word recognition.

Creative Expression:
Copywork Application: Root/base words with different initial sounds; names; rhymes; vowels. (i)
Write a story to go along with predetermined illustrations. (Narration)

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Parental Notes

Language Arts K | 4-Day | Section Two | Week 11 | 43

5 Spelling

Language Arts 1-4 includes Sonlight's phonetic-based Spelling program. For Language Arts D-F, choose from the programs we offer and record in the provided space in your IG.

6 Grammar and writing mechanics

Each week in the Language Arts programs below the 100 level, you receive clear grammar instruction about specific concepts that tie in to the week's copywork or dictation passage—proper capitalization, apostrophe placement, tricky homonyms, etc. Then your students complete a few exercises to practice and reinforce what they learned so they can communicate effectively. Weekly notes provide answers to grammar questions.

7 Effective creative writing instruction

Step-by-step creative writing instruction encourages exploration and sets your children free to develop their creative side. They become superb written communicators, too.

Your IG includes assignments in a wide variety of styles and genres, including imaginative, persuasive, expository, narrative, journaling, etc. Each assignment includes instruction and a sample of what your student might produce.

The writing assignments follow a consistent pattern each week: copywork or dictation on Days 1 and 5; mechanics instruction and practice on Day 2; pre-planning for writing on Day 3; writing assignment on Day 4.

8 Evaluative rubrics

Easily determine how to evaluate your children's work. Are they on track? What areas could use additional practice?

9 Activity Sheets and answers

Activity Sheets reinforce your teaching and provide assignments that make your children eager to learn how to write well. A variety of activity options coordinate with your students' Language Arts studies and draw on a range of skills and interests. Reproduction rights mean these sheets are good for the entire family. Weekly notes provide answers to grammar questions and suggested responses for Creative Writing assignments.

10 Schedules for optional workbooks

All levels include schedules for optional workbooks. These workbooks offer your children additional practice in areas where they may struggle, such as phonics, grammar, and vocabulary.

Your choice of a 5- or 4-Day schedule

In most grades, choose complete instruction for either four or five days each week. ♦

| Language Arts K | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Days 166-170: Date: _____ to _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Week Overview | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 |
| Week 34 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date: | Day 166 | Day 167 | Day 168 | Day 169 | Day 170 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Letters Learned So Far | Ff, Bb, Mm, Tt, Rr, Aa, Hh, Pp, Ss, Ii, Cc, Dd, Jj, Oo, Nn, Kk, Ll, Uu, Vv, Ww, Gg, Yy, Ee, Zz, Xx, Qq | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| My First Picture Dictionary | Q pages | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Language and Phonics Activities | Letter Pictures | | Building Words | Play Go A to Z! | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Optional: Go for the Code | pp. 83-85 | pp. 86-88 | pp. 89-91 | pp. 92-94 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Handwriting Without Tears: Letters and Numbers for Me | p. 30 | p. 72 | p. 71 | p. 75 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fun Tales | Read #25: "A Jet Trip" | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Copywork Application | Copywork 1 | Copywork Application | The Painting's Story | Copywork 2 | Story Sequencing | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Notes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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Language Arts K Week 34 Activity Sheet (Handwriting Without Tears)

Copywork 1

quit, quip quick, quack

Copywork Application

- Underline all the **qs**. In English, the letter **q** is always followed by a **u**.
- Put a circle around all the **ck** combinations. The letters **ck**, together, are always pronounced as /k/.
- Put a box around the word that is the sound a duck makes.
- Tell your mom or dad some words to describe (adjectives) the word **quack**.



Language Arts 3: Week 30 Activity Sheet

Copywork 1

Dr. Smiley wanted them to see a life-size plaster statue of Joan of Arc. It was on loan from a museum in Paris, France. Dr. Smiley said the plaster statue was made in 1456. That meant it was more than five hundred years old.

Copywork Application

Rewrite each sentence and replace the words in **bold** with synonyms.

- The closet was filled with **noisy** toys.
- Suddenly, a **big** truck pulled into our driveway.
- The **hot** pavement warmed my toes.

Not sure what level your child needs? Take a free Language Arts assessment.

sonlight.com/assessment

Visit sonlight.com/samples to request a free, three week sample of any IG.