The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts

Overview
These standards describe what students should know and be able to do in order to be college and career ready in the 21st century. Students who master the standards will be fluent readers, critical thinkers, informative writers, effective speakers, and engaged listeners. They will effectively comprehend complex informational and literary texts and respond, as warranted by the task, using technology as a source of information and a means of communication.

The standards are divided into four strands: reading, (including literature and informational text and foundational skills), writing, speaking and listening, and language. The standards are organized by grade level for kindergarten through grade eight and by two grade spans for high school.

The foundational skills standards for kindergarten through grade five foster students’ understanding and knowledge of concepts of print, the alphabetic principle, and other basic conventions. Developing phonological awareness, phonics and word recognition, and fluency are addressed in these standards.

As Washington State moves to the Common Core State Standards, first grade students will continue to learn current Washington GLEs while transitioning to the CCSS. This snapshot features some of the shifts; however, it is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of changes to the standards.

Reading
• With prompting and support, read prose and poetry of appropriate complexity. (RL.1.10)*
• Use the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas. (RI.1.7)

Writing
• Write an opinion piece that introduces a topic or book, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure. (W.1.1)
• With guidance and support from adults and collaboration with peers, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing. (W.1.6)

Speaking and Listening
• Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings. (SL.1.5)

Language
• Use common, proper, and possessive nouns. (L.1.1b)
• Use frequently occurring affixes as a clue to the meaning of a word. (L.1.4b)
• Identify frequently occurring root words (look) in their inflectional forms, e.g., looks, looked, looking. (L.1.4c)

Specific information on the CCSS can be found at: http://www.corestandards.org

*Individual grade-specific standards can be identified by their strand, grade, and standard number.
For example, RL.1.10 stands for Reading Literature Text, grade 1, standard 10.