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Scroll down to continue Share Pin it Tweet Share Email I try, I really do, but even though I write every day I'm not exactly fluent when it comes to grammar and punctuation. Not many people are and it's nice the readers here help me out every now and then! Dumb Little Man recently found the great Online Writing Lab at Purdue University and has kindly categorized the tips they keep there. Run through this list covering verbs, commas, structure and become a better writer. 40+ Tips to Improve your Grammar and Punctuation – [DumbLittleMan] The OWL At Purdue – [PurdueUniversity] Share Pin it Tweet Share Email Being in college means you've already aced your SATs, taken all the college prep classes and filled out myriad applications to secure your place. Armed with all that experience, you can help current high school students achieve their college dreams. It was just after graduating from Mas-sachusetts Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree that Christine Ortiz, now 25, moved back home and started tutoring high school students in her neighborhood. After starting a graduate program at the University of Central Florida, where she is earning a master's in education, she envisioned a whole space devoted to learning. In fall 2007, she started The Knowledge Lab, a tutoring center in Longwood, Florida. Ortiz created a space with comfortable couches, custom murals and a refrigerator full of snacks to welcome students who come to her after-school SAT prep classes and help sessions on subjects like calculus and chemistry. Set to graduate herself next month, Ortiz knows how to navigate the college prep and application process--and shares with students what she wishes someone had shared with her. Positive testimonials from happy students and parents are now one of Ortiz's best marketing tools. She created a street team to talk up her business to quidance counselors as a way to get referrals. The K-Lab projects revenue of about \$75,000 for its first full year in business. "I'm trying to create the kind of environment where kids," she says. "It feels like they're just hanging out and they happen to get their work done while they're [here]." Word-of-mouth marketing and networking within your community is key to getting student clients for your college prep and tutoring business, says William H. Crookston, professor of entrepreneurial Studies. Go to PTA events or counselor events to get your business's name out there. And know what your services are worth. "Write a price list schedule," says Crookston. "And ask for [payment] before you perform the services." If you plan to grow your college prep and tutoring business, you'll want to hire a fleet of tutors. Depending on your needs, you may want to search for employees or independent contractors--but make sure you get a federal tax ID number so you can send out official 1099 or W-9 forms come tax time. Building out a huge network of tutors--more than 700--has helped Greg Zumas, 31, and Richard Enos, 32, grow their tutoring service, StudyPoint Inc., to 10 cities. Starting in Boston in 1999, Zumas, then a Cornell University student, and Enos, a Cornell graduate, quickly brought in nearly 20 tutors their first fall season. "Ninety-nine percent [of our success] is based on who's going out and working with the kids. We still spend a lot of time and money [on recruiting and training] and are very selective on instructors," says Zumas, who projects company sales to hit more than \$6 million this year. When your third grader just isn't up to par with reading comprehension (you know that he or she is struggling because of a lack of interest in books, poor test scores, and teacher input) what are you supposed to do about it? How can you help him or her become a successful reader? The good news is that you're on the right track! The following reading comprehension books for third graders can help you help your child with the skills and strategies necessary for comprehending what they've read. Sylvan Author: Sy package for a Language Arts work-out for students really struggling. Reading Skills Practice: Making predictions, understanding vocabulary building skills with suffixes, root words and homophones. Price: At press time, the workbook ranged from \$10.59 - \$15.74 on Amazon. Why Buy? If your child needs Language Arts remediation and gets bored easily with black and white print-outs, this workbook is just the ticket. Not only will the full color pages will help keep kids engaged, the skills included should help kids secure those basics they may be missing. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Author: Steck-Vaughn Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Summary: This book includes info pages at the beginning of each unit and each lesson provide explicit instructions for teaching the skills. The reading passages are followed by comprehension questions in multiple-choice and short answer format, so kids can feel prepared for standardized tests. The book also includes graphic organizers and correlation charts. Reading Skills Practice: Finding the main idea, using context clues, sequencing, determining cause and effect, making inferences, finding details, and understanding the difference between fact and opinion. Price: At press time, the workbook ranged from \$9.97 - \$15.74 on Amazon. Why Buy? Kids are often inundated with fiction, but nonfiction is just as important to read and comprehend, too. I'd wager that most of an adult's day is spent reading nonfiction!. This workbook helps kids grasp nonfiction with high-interest topics. Evan-Moor Author: Camille Liscinsky Publisher: Evan-Moore Summary: There are over 150 reproducible reading passages and tons of skill-building follow-up questions. It's perfect for test prep and daily review as it uses both fiction and nonfiction reading passages with follow-up questions. It's perfect for test prep and daily review as it uses both fiction and nonfiction reading passages with follow-up questions. It's perfect for test prep and daily review as it uses both fiction and nonfiction reading passages with follow-up questions. It's perfect for test prep and daily review as it uses both fiction and nonfiction reading passages with follow-up questions. It's perfect for test prep and daily review as it uses both fiction and nonfiction reading passages with follow-up questions. drawing conclusions, sequencing, identifying cause and effect, developing vocabulary, analyzing characters, comparing and contrasting, making inferences, following directions, following directions, following directions, following directions, following directions, following direction Amazon. Why Buy? The pages are ready to go for class or home use. You literally just have to open the book and begin. Plus, the lessons are easy to follow and thorough enough that you won't need anything else. Kumon Author: Kumon Publishing North America, Incorporated Summary: This is another workbook that teachers pre-3rd grade skills. It's an ideal summer solution for struggling readers who are transitioning from second grade to third grade. Reading Skills Practice: Vocabulary Building, Prefixes & Suffixes, Compare & Contrast, Defining Words by Context, Who/When/Where/What/Why/How, Chart the Passage, Sequencing, and Making & Revising Predictions Price: At press time, the workbook ranged from \$3.95 - \$7,95 on Amazon. Why Buy? If cash is an issue for you, then this resource is right on the money. You won't find another workbook with such a low price for such a high quality of content. Although there has been debate over the past few decades about requiring high school students to read the classics, these works still appear on many 9th grade reading, writing, and analytical skills, and they also encourage discussion about many aspects of the human condition. Amazon This frankly told tale of the horrors of war was written by someone who lived it while fighting as a German soldier in World War I. The book is narrated by 20-year-old Paul Bäumer, whose experiences of the extreme mental and physical stress of soldiering—and the emotional detachment from civilian life once back home—spin a cautionary tale humanity has yet to heed. Amazon Orwell's devastating satire of the move from tyranny to revolution and back to tyranny remains as relevant a tale of totalitarianism masquerading as equality today as it was when it was published in 1945, targeting the abuses of Soviet Russia. Amazon In 1961, Griffin, a White journalist, set out to journey through the American South in the quise of a Black man (he had his skin temporarily darkened) to report on the realities of life under segregation. Along the way, he confronts his own prejudices and bursts the myth that racism is more paranoia than reality. Amazon This novel is the first in Buck's famous trilogy of life in China before World War I, some of it based on her own experiences. It won the Pulitzer Prize in 1932, was instrumental in Buck's winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1938, and was turned into a successful film. The book topped the bestseller lists once again in 2004 when it was chosen as the main selection of Oprah's Book Club. Amazon A novel at once comedic and tragic, "Great Expectations" centers on a poor young man by the name of Pip, who is given the chance to make himself a gentleman by a mysterious benefactor. Dickens' classic presents a fascinating overview of class, money, and corruption during the Victorian Era. Amazon He gave us some of the most memorable lines in all of American literature, some of them downright chilling, yet Poe was more than just a writer of horror. He was also a master of mystery, adventure, and often humor, all written with the same lyrical command of the English language. Amazon When McCullers published this, her first novel, at only 23 years of age, it became an instant sensation. Much about the book's young heroine, Mick Kelly, will resonate with teenagers today, who may experience the same yearning for independence and self-expression. Amazon The third of the famed mystery writer's crime novels to feature Sherlock Holmes, Conan Doyle's book has long been a favorite of high school English teachers. Not only is it one of the reference texts for almost all detective fiction to follow, but it is also a model of how to craft character, build suspense, and bring action to a satisfying conclusion. Amazon The first in a series of seven autobiographical books written by Angelou, this book was first published in 1969. A searing portrait of Angelou, this book was first published in 1969. A searing portrait of Angelou, this book was first published in 1969. A searing portrait of Angelou, this book was first published in 1969. A searing portrait of Angelou, this book was first published in 1969. A searing portrait of Angelou, this book was first published in 1969. 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A searing portrait of Angelou, this book was first published in 1969. A searing portrait of Angelou, this book was first published in 1969. A searing published in for anyone seeking to overcome oppression. duncan1890/Getty Images "The Iliad" is an epic poem attributed to Homer and the oldest extant piece of European literature. Divided into 24 books, it's an adventure story set in the final years of the Trojan War that introduces readers to some of the most famous conflicts and characters in all of classic literature. Renáta Dobránska/Getty Images "Jane Eyre" is on the surface a romance novel (one that no doubt established many conventions of the genre), but it is also a great piece of literature. In its heroine, Brontë's readers discover a remarkably resourceful and intelligent young woman who comes of age thanks to her inner strength and the redemptive power of love. Culture Club/Getty Images It has been called a proto-feminist novel for the way in which the March sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy—are written as fully rounded women with ideas, ambitions, and passions. Readers are likely to find inspiration in one or more of the sisters as they carve out lives for themselves despite the hardships of growing up in New England during the Civil War. Amazon The Guardian's breakdown of the 100 best novels of all time calls "Lord of the Flies "a brilliantly observed study of adolescents untethered from rules and conventions." Far from creating paradise on the island in which this group of English schoolboys has been stranded, they create a dystopian nightmare in which the impulse of savagery far outweighs that of civility. Amazon This sequel to "The Iliad" tells of the 10-year journey back home taken by Odysseus (Ulysses in Roman mythology) after the fall of Troy. Like its predecessor, "The Odyssey" is an epic poem that imbues its main character with the experiences and qualities that we have come to identify with the heroic. Bettmann /Getty Images Steinbeck packs guite a punch in this novella of two migrant workers, George and his friend Lennie, a man of imposing physicality but the mind of a child. The story takes place during the Great Depression and deals with themes of racism, sexism, and economic disparity. Amazon More than just a simple tale of an old Cuban fisherman who catches an enormous fish only to lose it, Hemingway's story is a tale of bravery, heroism, and one man's battle with challenges both external and internal. Amazon Set at a boys' boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, the novel centers on the friendship between introverted, intellectual Gene and handsome, athletic Finny. The friendship becomes in Gene's mind a tangle of supposed slights and possible treachery and how what results will reverberate through both of their lives. Amazon Another coming-of-age story, this one chronicles the life of Francie Nolan, age 11 when the book begins, from 1902 to 1919. Big things blossom in Francie's small sphere in Williamsburg, Brooklyn: love, loss, betrayal, shame, and, ultimately, hope. John Lamparski /Getty Images Lee's book on racial inequality in the American South of the 1930s is probably the most-read book in American literature, and for good reason. The Pulitzer Prize-winner deals with heavy issues, yet as seen through the eyes of 6-year-old Scout Finch, it is a poignant reminder of the power of kindness and the quest for justice. Amazon An instant success when it was published in 1938, this tale of the care a young boy gives to a wild animal is as uplifting as it is heart-wrenching. The ultimate lesson is that within the harsh realities of life there is also beauty and purpose.

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