



**Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center
English Language Arts Course of Study
Second Grade – Vocabulary Definitions**

(Ohio Department of Education. 2002. K-12 English Language Arts Academic Content Standards)

antonyms	A word opposite in meaning to another word (e.g., good and bad).
author's chair	A special chair in the classroom from which students and teachers read trade books and the students' own published writing; used to celebrate student writing and to provide students with opportunities to be authors.
blend	To combine the sounds represented by two or more letters to pronounce a word such as /gr/ in grow; to combine two or more words creating a new word such as brunch (breakfast plus lunch).

brainstorming	A prewriting technique in which students, either alone or in groups, jot down all words or phrases that come to mind on a topic to expand the range of available ideas, to solve a problem or to clarify a concept.
comparison and contrast	An organizational structure of text in which a description of similarities and differences among two or more things occurs.
compound word	A combination of two or more words that function as a single unit of meaning (e.g., bookkeeper or downtrodden).
comprehension	The process in which a reader constructs meaning through interaction with text; accurately understanding what is written or said.

context clues	Information a reader may obtain from a text that helps conform the meaning of a word or group of words.
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conventions	The accepted rules of written and spoken language.
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declarative sentence	A sentence that makes a statement.
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decode	To analyze spoken or graphic symbols of a familiar language to ascertain their intended meaning. Note: To learn to read, one must learn the conventional code in which something is written in order to decode the written message.
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diction	Clarity and distinctiveness of pronunciation; choice of words in speaking or writing.
digraphs	Two successive letters that make a single sound (e.g., <i>ea</i> in bread or <i>ng</i> in sing).
e.g.	<i>Exempli gratia</i> (Latin), meaning "for example."
editing	A step in preparing a written work for publication or review that focuses on clarity and correctness.
evaluative question	A question that asks the responder to make a judgment.
exclamatory sentence	A sentence that makes a vehement statement or conveys strong or sudden emotion.

fable	A story intended to enforce a useful truth, especially one in which animals speak and act like human beings.
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fluency	The act of reading easily, smoothly and automatically with a rate appropriate for the text, indicating that students understand meaning.
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focus	The center of interest or attention; in writing, the central idea.
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format	The shape, size and general makeup (as of something printed).
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genre	An established class or category of artistic composition or literature (e.g., poetry, drama or novel).
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graphic organizer	A method of organization of information which incorporates diagrams or other pictorial devices.
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high-frequency word	A word that appears many more times than most other words in spoken or written language.
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homograph	A word with the same spelling as another word, whether or not pronounced alike, as <i>pen</i> (a writing instrument) vs. <i>pen</i> (an enclosure) or <i>bow</i> (and arrow) vs. <i>bow</i> (of a ship).
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inferential question	A question that asks a responder to draw a conclusion.
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inflection	The process or result of changing the form of a word to express a syntactic function without changing the word's grammatical class, as <i>run</i> to <i>ran</i> or <i>runs</i> .
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informational documents	Works of nonfiction such as transcripts, reports or journals.
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interrogative sentence	A sentence that asks a question or makes an inquiry.
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language	The systematic use of sounds, signs and symbols as a method of communication; in writing, the choice of words used to convey meaning.
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literal meaning	The actual meaning of a word or a phrase.
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main idea	The gist of a passage; the central thought; the chief topic of a passage expressed or implied in a word or phrase; the topic sentence of a paragraph; a statement in sentence form which gives the stated or implied major topic of a passage and the specific way in which the passage is limited in content or reference.
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media	A means of communication, especially of mass communication, such as books, newspapers, magazines, radio, television, motion pictures and recordings.
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persuasive	One of the four traditional forms of composition in speech and writing that moves the reader by argument or entreaty to a belief or position.
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phoneme	A minimal sound unit of speech that, when contrasted with another phoneme, affects the naming of words in a language, as /b/ in <i>book</i> contrasts with /t/ in <i>took</i> , /k/ in <i>cook</i> and /h/ in <i>hook</i> .
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phonemic awareness	<p>The awareness of the sounds (phonemes) that make up spoken words. Such awareness does not appear when young children learn to talk; the ability is not necessary for speaking and understanding spoken language. Phonemic awareness is a necessary step for learning to read. In alphabetic languages, letters and letter clusters represent phonemes, and in order to learn the correspondences between letters and sounds, one must understand that words are made up of phonemes.</p>
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plot	The careful sequencing of events in a story generally built around a conflict. Stages of plot include exposition (background), rising action, climax, falling action and denouement (resolution).
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prefix	An affix attached before a base word or root, as <i>re-</i> in <i>reprint</i> .
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prewriting	The initial creative stage of writing, prior to drafting, in which a writer formulates ideas, gathers information, and considers ways to organize them.
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prior knowledge	Knowing that stems from previous experience. <i>Note:</i> Prior knowledge is a key component of schema theories of reading comprehension in spite of the redundancy inherent in the term.
revision	The stage of the writing process in which one considers and improves the meaning and underlying structure of a written draft.
root word	In a complex word, the meaningful base form after all affixes are removed. <i>Note:</i> A root may be independent or free, as <i>read</i> in <i>unreadable</i> , or may be dependent or bound, as <i>-liter-</i> (from the Greek for letter) in <i>illiterate</i> .

rubric	An authoritative set of rules which can be used as a means of evaluation.
segment syllables	The division of words into syllables; the minimal units of sequential speech sounds comprising a vowel sound or vowel-consonant combination, as /a/, /ba/, /ab/ and /bab/.
sequencing	The arrangement in which things follow in a logical order or a recurrent pattern; a following of one thing after another in time.
setting	The time and place of the action of a literary work.
sight word	A word that is immediately recognized as a whole and does not require word analysis for identification.

style	An author's distinctive manner of expression.
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suffix	An affix attached to the end of a base, root or stem that changes the meaning or grammatical function of a word, as <i>-en</i> added to form <i>oxen</i> .
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synonym	One of two or more words in a language that have similar meanings (e.g., answer and respond).
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tale	A story for children that includes fantastic forces and elements of magic.
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theme	A topic of discussion or writing; a major idea or proposition broad enough to cover the entire scope of a literary work or work of art. <i>Note:</i> A theme may be stated or implied, but clues to it may be found in the ideas that are given special prominence or tend to recur in a work.
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tone	The reflection of an author's attitude toward his or her subject.
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topic	The general category or class of ideas, often stated in a word or phrase, to which the ideas of a passage as a whole belong.
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topic sentence	A sentence intended to express the main idea in a paragraph or passage.
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transitions	Words and phrases that help explain relationships between sentences and allow a reader or writer to move from one idea to another.
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unknown words	Words that are unfamiliar to a reader in both print and meaning.
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Venn diagram	A mapping technique using overlapping circles showing features either unique or common to two or more concepts.
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visual aid	An instructional device, such as a chart, map, diagram, cutaway or overlay, that helps a reader to comprehend information.
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word families	Groups of words with clear relationships (e.g., specify, specifies, and specification).
word recognition	The process of determining the pronunciation and some degree of meaning of a word in written or printed form; the quick and easy identification of the form, pronunciation and appropriate meaning of a word previously seen in print or writing.
word wall	A large area of a wall (generally in a classroom) where important words are displayed as references for reading and writing.
writer's circle	A revision strategy in which each writer submits a paper to a group and receives advice for editing.

