



The Master's Study

Upper Grammar 5 School Readiness Checklist

As parents prepare their students for Upper Grammar 5, the following guidelines should be considered. The following list will give you an idea of the necessary skills a child should have or be in the process of mastering in order to receive the greatest benefit at The Master's Study. This list is not intended to be a checklist to determine eligibility, but rather a preparedness yardstick for the parent/teacher at home to use within in the home school setting.

READING

- Reading literature aimed at 10-12 year olds
 - TMS suggests having students read aloud periodically to assess a student's reading level & comprehension. Examples
 - *"Island of the Blue Dolphins"* and *"The Black Pearl"*, books by Scott O'Dell
 - *The Chronicles of Narnia (any title)* by C.S. Lewis
 - *"Brightly of the Grand Canyon"*, *"Misty of Chincoteague"* & other like titles by Marguerite Henry
 - The Classic Starts series by varying authors (introduces literary classics)
 - Consider any of the titles on the assigned TMS booklist for the upcoming year
 - Students should be able to read uninterrupted 30-45 minutes per day.
 - Students should be able to read and comprehend a book that is more informative/academic in nature, in addition to leisure reading.
 - Students should be able and willing to read a book that is a bit beyond his comfortable reading level.
- Can use self-induced strategies to determine the meaning of a word when unknown yet presented in context in a reading text. This includes recognition of words with multiple meanings, antonyms, synonyms, homonyms, and root words.
- Can read and make predictions.
- Can recognize main idea and corresponding supporting ideas in a paragraph, chapter, and work in its entirety
- Can, with some prompting, identify plot, setting, characters, conflict, climax and type of genre.
- Is beginning to recognize and understand fact versus opinion
- Can read for content and comprehension then answer questions in complete sentences.

WRITING

- Can independently write a solid paragraph with topic sentence, supporting sentences and conclusion.
 - Without prompting, the student should be able to write the paragraph in standard format (indenting, correct punctuation, etc)
 - Evidence of this skill should be visible in basic forms of written communication, such as letter or note writing, journal writing, or paragraphs spawned from a "story starter"



- Should recognize and correctly use basic parts of speech
 - subject & verb with agreement
 - noun, pronoun, adjective, verb, adverb, objects, prepositions.
 - Evidence of this skill should be visible in basic forms of written communication, such as letter or note write, journal writing, or paragraphs spawned from a “story starter”
- Should be able to use a dictionary (print or online) to look up words that he/she cannot spell correctly.
- Student should have basic proofreading skills to correct a first draft of his/her Progym or other writing. (While not expected to catch all mistakes, he/she should recognize and correct some of them.)
- Presents writing using appropriate conventions of capitalization and punctuation.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING/CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

- Can speak fluently and audibly with appropriate volume, gestures and eye contact
- Uses age appropriate vocabulary
- Participates willingly and appropriately in guided group discussion
 - Be able to discern what comments are on topic during a class discussion and be able to hold off-topic comments until an appropriate time.

STUDY SKILLS

- Student has the ability to work independently for 20 minutes at a time
- Student has the ability to copy information down from another source: a chalkboard, a book, an overhead, etc.
- Student can organize words alphabetically.
- Student understands the use of a Table of Contents and Index.
- Student can use the dictionary and thesaurus well.
- Student knows how to organize his/her folder or notebook as directed (i.e. homework in one pocket/ completed work in another pocket).
- Student is beginning to take responsibility for his or her own school supplies and assignments on a school day
- Students should be working toward basic keyboard skills.