

New standards are triggering three major changes in instruction:

1.

There is an increased emphasis on building a strong vocabulary so that your child can read and understand challenging material.

2.

Teachers will provide more challenging reading and ask more questions that will require your child to refer back to a passage he or she has read.

3.

In addition to stories and literature, there will be more reading that provides facts and background knowledge in science and social studies.

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD AT HOME

Encourage your child to read a self-selected text for at least 15 minutes each day.

Look for opportunities in everyday places to **build your child's vocabulary**.

Get a library card, and **let your child select books**.

Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading.

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD

To better prepare children for the higher demands of college and careers, public schools are improving education with the Hawaii Common Core – learning goals to help all children stay on track to graduate with the skills they need to be successful. Please ask your child's teacher for more information, or visit bit.ly/CommonCoreHI.

Sample exercise

With Hawaii Common Core, students are being asked deeper, text-based questions.

Previous ELA question:

In "The Gettysburg Address," President Lincoln says the nation is dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Why is equality an important value to promote?

Hawaii Common Core ELA question:

"The Gettysburg Address" mentions the year 1776. According to President Lincoln's speech, why is this year significant to the events described in the speech?

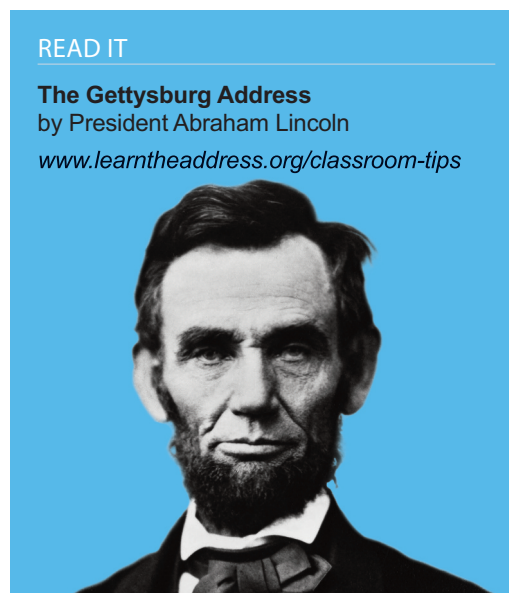
- The reading standards for high school ask students to cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- The non-Common Core question can be answered by students who have not spent time reading and closely analyzing "The Gettysburg Address." (It is less challenging to talk about equality in a general sense than to carefully and closely read Lincoln's speech to uncover and infer the significance of the year 1776.)
- This is also an equity issue as it allows all students – not just those who may have prior knowledge – to take part in the discussion and writing.

READ IT

The Gettysburg Address

by President Abraham Lincoln

www.learntheaddress.org/classroom-tips



A sample of what your child will be learning in high school:

READING

- Understanding more from and making fuller use of written materials, including using a wider range of evidence to support an analysis.
- Making more connections about how complex ideas interact and develop within a book, essay, or article.
- Evaluating arguments and specific claims, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is sufficient, and as appropriate, detecting inconsistencies and ambiguities.
- Analyzing the meaning of foundational U.S. documents (the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights).

WRITING

- Making an argument that is logical, well-reasoned, and supported by evidence.
- Writing a literary analysis, report, or summary that develops a central idea and a coherent focus and is well supported with relevant examples, facts, and details.
- Conducting several research projects that address different aspects of the same topic, using more complex books, articles, and other sources.