

SUITABILITY AND CIVIC ALIGNMENT

Grade 3: Our Passages and the Suitability Rubric

How our passages support patriotism, free enterprise, good citizenship, and the civic values the State Board of Education asks for

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Overview

Every reading passage in the Grade 3 Supplemental Support System was chosen to do two jobs at once. It teaches a language arts skill, and it carries content worth a student's attention. A large share of that content was selected on purpose to reflect the civic values named in the Texas suitability rubric, the values that prepare students for self governance. This document states that purpose, explains the rationale, and charts exactly where each value appears across the third grade passages, labeled by cluster and module.

Purpose statement. The Writing Academy, LLC Grade 3 reading passages are designed to build established readers and writers on content that also cultivates informed, responsible citizens. Wherever it fits the grade and the skill, we anchor instruction in American patriotism, Texas history, the free enterprise system, good citizenship, democracy and self governance, respect for recognized authority, respect for individual rights, and the founding ideas of our state and nation, so that students grow in civic understanding while they learn to read and write.

The suitability values we address

The Texas suitability rubric asks that instructional materials help prepare students for self governance by promoting citizenship, patriotism, democracy, an understanding of the essentials and benefits of the free enterprise system, respect for recognized authority, and respect for individual rights, along with American and Texas history and the founding documents of the United States. The Grade 3 passages are mapped to these eight values.

1. **Patriotism** love of country and pride in national heritage. 2. **Free Enterprise** the essentials and benefits of the free market and individual initiative. 3. **Good Citizenship** contributing to and caring for a community. 4. **Democracy and Self Governance** how a free people make decisions and laws. 5. **Respect for Authority** the role of rules, laws, and legitimate leadership. 6. **Individual Rights** the freedoms and dignity of each person. 7. **Texas History** the story of our state. 8. **Founding Ideas and Documents** the principles and documents that established the nation.

Rationale

We did not add civic content as a layer on top of the reading. We chose passages whose real subject matter is civic, so the values are learned through genuine, grade appropriate texts rather than slogans. Biographies of builders and inventors carry the free enterprise system. Histories of the Pilgrims, the founders, and early Texas carry patriotism, founding ideas, and state history. Texts on laws, rights, compromise, and community carry citizenship, democracy, respect for authority, and individual rights. The remaining passages build the background knowledge that comprehension depends on. Because the same content is threaded through the writing, vocabulary, and grammar work as well, students meet these values many times and in many forms across the year.

Where the values appear: Grade 3, by cluster and module

Cluster / Module	Passage	Patriotism	Free Enterprise	Citizenship	Democracy	Authority	Indiv. Rights	TX History	Founding
C1 M1	The Pilgrims Chose Plymouth	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
C1 M2	Life Along the Nile River								
C2 M1	Laura Ingalls Wilder	✓	✓	✓					
C2 M2	Carmen Lomas Garza			✓					
C3 M1	Why We Need Laws			✓	✓	✓	✓		
C3 M2	The Lunchroom Discoveries			✓		✓			
C4 M1	The Invention of Electricity		✓						
C4 M2	The Founding Fathers	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓
C5 M1	Henry Ford: Visionary of Travel	✓	✓				✓		
C5 M2	Sam Walton: Visionary of Retail	✓	✓				✓		
C6 M1	Crash			✓					
C6 M2	The Good Citizen			✓		✓	✓		
C7 M1	MLK, A Dream Can Grow / What Will You Give?	✓		✓	✓		✓		
C8 M1	A Place to Grow (Geography & Community set)		✓	✓	✓			✓	

Each passage is labeled by its grade, cluster, and module. A check means the passage's own content gives students a genuine encounter with that value at the third grade level. Most civic passages carry several values at once, and every value in the rubric is addressed more than once across the grade. Passages without a check teach other required content and build the knowledge base that supports comprehension. This mapping reflects each passage's evident civic content and can be refined against the full passage texts.

Putting the civic values into action

The passages above carry a civic message. We also built activities that go beyond that message, so students actually use the civic responsibilities named in the suitability rubric. Here are a few of the places in our Grade 3 clusters where that happens most strongly.

Cluster / Module	Activity	Civic value in action	What students do
C2 M4	Culminating Project: Community Museum Exhibit	Good Citizenship	Students research their own family, neighborhood, school, or a community group, then present a museum day exhibit with a social studies card that connects a historical figure to an idea about community.
C3 M3	Rules Flap and Flip the Flap: Why Rules Matter	Respect for Authority	Students build a four flap foldable and play a board game in which they reason out why communities need rules, then turn those reasons into topic sentences about fairness, safety, and order.
C4 M1	MICE and Cheese Significance Stack (Founding Fathers cards)	Founding Ideas and Documents	Students stack reason, evidence, explanation, and significance cards to explain why the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution mattered, concluding that fair rules help people build something stronger together.
C6 M4	Persuasive Letter to a Real Reader	Good Citizenship	Students carry their argument about honesty and responsibility from Crash and The Good Citizen into a formal letter to Mrs. Ramirez, a classmate, or a community leader.
C8 M2	Community Problem-Solution Chain Challenge	Democracy and Self Governance; Free Enterprise	Research teams assemble NOTICE, QUESTION, ACT, and IMPACT chains for real cases, including how communities created laws to settle disputes, how a class gathered information and voted, and how Ford and Walton built businesses that created jobs.

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