



Sample 4th grade FASTalk Messages - Guidebooks 3.0 AMERICAN REVOLUTION

FASTalk is a tool for teachers to engage all families in dialogue and easy at-home activities that reinforce classroom learning and improve ELA outcomes on a weekly basis.

FOCUS AREA	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
SECTION 1: Lessons 1-2 Building Vocabulary	Your child is starting a unit on the American Revolution. They'll learn new vocab, conduct research, debate sides, write an essay & more!	Define the word LIBERTY with your child. Ask: what does it look like to have liberty or freedom? What liberties or freedoms are most important to you? Why?	Helping at home makes a difference at school! Did your child talk about LIBERTY this week? Reply: 1: yes 2: not yet
SECTION 2: Lessons 3-6 Explaining what you have read	Get in the habit of asking your child about what they are reading at school. What texts have you enjoyed reading in the last 2 weeks?	Asking questions helps build key comprehension skills! Ask: Why did you enjoy those texts? What happened? What did you learn that surprised you?	What text did you and your child talk about this week?
SECTION 3: Lessons 7-12 Supporting opinions with reasons	Help your child practice using reasons to support their opinions. Ask: How many minutes of recess should kids have per day? Why?	Keep asking questions and prompt your child to add facts and details to their reasons. Ask: Why do you think that? How do you know?	You're helping build key skills at home! Did your child back up an opinion with reasons? Reply: 1: yes 2: not yet
SECTION 4: Lessons 13-15 Conducting research	Your child is learning how to research a topic. Talk about one of your (or your child's) prized possessions. Ask: how can we find out more about it?	Together, conduct research on the prized possession. Where did it come from? How old is it? What is it made of?	I value your feedback! Please let me know if you tried this week's activity. Reply: 1: yes 2: not yet
SECTION 5: Lessons 16-22 Writing & editing	Play this writing game: Both you and your child write 2-3 detailed sentences about a place. Read your clues aloud & guess the place.	Now, check the spelling and punctuation together as your child reads. Hearing themselves read helps with proofreading.	Help me learn more about your child. How was this week's activity? Reply: 1: fun 2: not fun 3: didn't try it yet
SECTION 6: Lessons 23-25 Debating & understanding sides	Debate helps students build critical thinking, speaking and listening skills. To help at home, discuss pros and cons of an issue.	Talk about the pros and cons of year-long school. Model productive ways to share different perspectives: "I see it differently because..."	Did your child practice considering both sides of an issue? Reply: 1: yes 2: not yet
SECTION 10: Lessons 32-36 Scholarly conversation	Your child is prepping for a debate about the American Revolution. Let them be the "teacher" & ask them to teach you something they learned.	Putting what they learned in their own words helps your child retain new info. Respond by paraphrasing: "I hear you saying that..."	What did your child teach you this week? I'd love to hear!
SECTION 11: Lessons 37-40 Writing & editing	4th graders are writing opinion essays to show they understand the Revolutionary War conflict. Ask your child to share their hard work!	The critical writing skills your child is developing - drafting, revising, & editing - will help them succeed in elem school and beyond!	Thank you for your help at home. You're helping your child become a strong writer!