**Grade Four Language Standards**

**Conventions of Standard English**

**L.4.1** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

**L.4.1a** Use relative pronouns (*who, whose, whom, which, that*) and relative adverbs (*where, when, why*).

**L.4.1b** Form and use the progressive (e.g., *I was walking; I am walking; I will be walking*) verb tenses.

**L.4.1c** Use modal auxiliaries (e.g., *can, may, must*) to convey various conditions.

**L.4.1d** Order adjectives within sentences according to conventional patterns (e.g., *a small red bag* rather than *a red small bag*).

**L.4.1e** Form and use prepositional phrases.

**L.4.1f** Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons.\*

**L.4.1g** Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., *to, too, two; there, their*).\*

**L.4.2** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

**L.4.2a** Use correct capitalization.

**L.4.2b** Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text.

**L.4.2c** Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence.

**L.4.2d** Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.

**Knowledge of Language**

**L.4.3** Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

**L.4.3a** Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.\*

**L.4.3b** Choose punctuation for effect.\*

**L.4.3c** Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English (e.g., presenting ideas) and situations where informal discourse is appropriate (e.g., small-group discussion).

**Vocabulary Acquisition and Use**

**L.4.4** Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

**L.4.4a** Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

**L.4.4b** Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., *telegraph, photograph, autograph*).

**L.4.4c** Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.

**L.4.5** Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

**L.4.5a** Explain the meaning of simple similes and metaphors (e.g., *as pretty as a picture*) in context.

**L.4.5b** Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs.

**L.4.5c** Demonstrate understanding of words by relating them to their opposites (antonyms) and to words with similar but not identical meanings (synonyms).

**L.4.6** Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., quizzed, whined, stammered) and that are basic to a particular topic (e.g., *wildlife, conservation,* and *endangered* when discussing animal preservation).