

Course Integrated Language Arts (ILA) Syllabus
Mrs. D'Ambrosio and Mrs. Walker
North St. Paul – Maplewood – Oakdale School District 622
John Glenn Middle School

Full Year Course

Standards met: MN Academic Standards in ILA

Sixth Grade Integrated Language Arts is a full year course lasting two periods each day. The Holt, Rinehart, Winston curriculum includes a short story anthology, a workbook, several novels, a spelling program, and formal assessments (story quizzes and unit tests) as well as writing projects. Our sixth grade text is divided into eight sections/units called collections. A summary of collection topics, novels and writing projects for each collection is listed below. We will attempt to work through 3 collections per trimester and complete approximately 10 of the total 32 spelling lessons per trimester.

Curriculum: (Essential Outcomes)

1. The student will demonstrate an ability to read sixth grade materials with accuracy and fluency, including the correct application of word pronunciation and inflection.
2. The student will expand his/her vocabulary through a variety of strategies, including explicit instruction and context clues.
3. The student will use reference materials to determine pronunciations, meanings, and alternate word choices.
4. The student will begin to determine the meaning of unknown words using knowledge of Greek and Latin roots, suffixes, and prefixes.
5. The student will demonstrate the ability to use a variety of reading strategies to improve comprehension of sixth grade materials, including informational, expository, or persuasive texts.
6. The student will use strategies to self-evaluate for comprehension.
7. The student will identify the main idea and supporting details and determine point of view, audience and message and the author's purpose.
8. The student will demonstrate knowledge of reading genres and the elements of each genre.
9. The student will identify and analyze characters.
10. The student will describe how figurative language and literary devices contribute to the meaning of a text.
11. The student will write clearly and coherently in a variety of forms, including but not limited to expressive works (e.g. one-act play, poetry, journals, narratives); informative essays using the 5-paragraph format; and persuasive pieces (e.g. Editorials, book talks, advertisements, opinion papers) that demonstrate an understanding of the writing process.
12. The student will engage in a writing process with attention to organization, voice, sentence fluency, word choice, conventions, ideas, focus, and purpose.
13. The student will create narratives that develop settings, characters, dialogue, and conflicts using descriptive, concrete language to engage audiences.
14. The student will apply Standard English conventions (spelling, grammar, and punctuation) in his/her writing.
15. The student will clarify an understanding of text by creating outlines, logical notes, and summaries.
16. The student will be able to locate, interpret, cite sources, and synthesize information into a final product.
17. The student will be able to speak effectively for a variety of purposes and will listen, view and evaluate oral communications.
18. The student will give a book talk using appropriate public speaking skills.
19. The student will be able to write legibly.
20. The student will critically analyze information found in a variety of media sources with regard to quality of production, accuracy of information, bias, purpose, message, and audience.

Course Outline:

Collections

- Collection 1 – Plot: Moments of Truth (analyzing plot and setting)
- Collection 2 – Characters: The People You'll Meet (analyzing characters)
- Collection 3 – Theme: The Heart of the Matter (analyzing theme)
- Collection 4 – Forms of Fiction (identifying and analyzing forms of fiction)

Collection 5 – Biography and Autobiography: Unforgettable Personalities (analyzing first- and third-person narration)

Collection 6 – The Writer’s Craft: Metaphors, Symbols and Images (analyzing literary devices)

Collection 7 – Poetry (analyzing sound effects and figures of speech)

Collection 8 – Literary Criticism: You Be the Judge (responding critically to literature)

Writing Workshops

Narrative Writing – Short Story

Persuasive Writing – Problem and Solution

Narrative Writing – Personal Narrative

Expository Writing – Comparison/Contrast Essay

Expository Writing – Informative Report

Descriptive Writing – Descriptive Essay

Persuasive Writing – Supporting a Position

Greek/Latin: 22 different roots, prefixes and suffixes will be studied

Novels

Seedfolks (read by 6 graders across the district) by Paul Fleischman

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

Nothing But the Truth by Avi

No More Dead Dogs by Gordon Korman

The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson

Course requirements:

Daily homework assignments will always be due the next day. Daily homework is worth 2 points. If the work shows good effort, 2 points will be recorded. If it is incomplete, but more than ½ completed or turned in late = 0 points. Late homework assignments will only be accepted in cases of absence.

Projects will always have a specific due date recorded on the instructions sheet. A project turned in on time will receive the maximum points earned as determined by the grading criteria. Projects late 1 day = 50% of the points earned. Projects late by 2 or more days will receive a 0.

If a failing grade results from a problem with turning in assignments on time, students will be allowed to come up with a plan for resolving the F. I will be open for making up the missed work but will not initiate the solution myself.

Grading Procedures:

Grading will be done on a total point system with homework and class work weighing approximately 40%, followed by quizzes 30%, and unit tests/projects 30%. I will always inform the students about an upcoming quiz or test and offer suggestions for how best to prepare. We will also do occasional study sessions in class. The traditional A-F letter grade system will be used. Students will receive a mid-trimester report card and trimester end report card 3 times each this year. Missing work printouts are issued every 2-3 weeks.

Contact Information:

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