

# Common Core State Standards

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade

6

*A resource to help you support your child's learning*

In grade six, students will read a range of books, articles, and texts, and demonstrate their understanding of the material. In writing, students will work on their use of language, sentence structure, and organization of ideas. They will also integrate information from different sources and respond through written interpretation and analysis.

### Some of the work students will be doing in these areas includes:

- Providing detailed summaries of texts
- Determining the theme of a text and how it is conveyed
- Describing how a particular story or play unfolds and how characters respond to plot developments
- Using a range of reading strategies to determine the meaning of unknown words
- Participating in class discussions
- Comparing and contrasting various texts, including poems, stories, and historical novels
- Understanding the figurative and connotative (implied) meaning of words and phrases
- Identifying and evaluating specific claims or arguments in a text
- Supporting written claims or arguments with clear reasons and relevant evidence
- Producing clear and coherent writing appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience
- Conducting short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources

Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important reading skills across grade levels.

### Reading Literature

Grade Five Reading	Grade Six Reading	Grade Seven Reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students determine the theme of a story, play, or poem from details in the text, including how characters respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic, and summarize the text.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students determine the theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details. Students also provide an objective summary of the text.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text. Students also provide an objective summary of the text.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.</li></ul>

### Reading for Information

Grade Five Reading	Grade Six Reading	Grade Seven Reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students analyze of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students analyze of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students integrate information presented in different media or formats to develop a coherent understanding of a topic.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text.</li></ul>

## Writing

Writing tasks in grade six may include stories, essays, reports, and persuasive papers. Here are a few examples of how your child will develop important writing skills across grade levels.

Grade Five Writing	Grade Six Writing	Grade Seven Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students introduce a topic clearly, providing a general observation and focus, and develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students introduce a topic and develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow, and develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students group related information logically.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students organize ideas, concepts, and information using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students organize ideas, concepts, and information using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students link ideas within and across categories of information using words, phrases, and clauses such as in contrast or especially.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.</li></ul>

### Helping your child learn outside of school

1. Provide time and space for your child to read independently.
2. Ask your child what he or she learned from reading. Have your child read the most interesting sections aloud, and discuss how that knowledge can be used in real life.
3. It is helpful when your child sees other people reading at home. You could share what you have read.
4. Make time for conversation. Discuss current events, shared interests, and future aspirations for education and career.
5. Visit museums, zoos, theaters, historical sites, aquariums, and other educational places to help increase your child's exposure to new knowledge and vocabulary.
6. Use websites to read books or articles online. Libraries also have computers students can use.

### Partnering with your child's teacher

Ask your child's teacher questions like:

- Is my child reading on grade level? How is my child doing in writing?
- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
- What can I do at home to make sure that my child is successful?

For more information on the Common Core State Standards for English go to <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy> or <http://www.commoncoreworks.org>.