



What to expect in a 6th grade ACE ELA class?

- Students are able to independently read for at least 30 minutes a day; this reading might be from assigned reading or independent novels but will include both fiction and nonfiction texts.
- Students are able to independently draft an essay in 45-60 minutes.
- Students possess an ability to work independently as is age appropriate.
- Students are willing to explore multiple genres in reading and writing.
- Students are able to understand and adhere to deadlines.
- Students will take risks in pursuit of deeper learning in reading and writing.
- Students will be encouraged and supported to use conceptual connections in their learning.
- Students are able to move faster through learning and push to new/above grade level standards when appropriate.
- Students are passionate and motivated by reading, writing, speaking and listening.
- Students are able to deal with frustration or academic challenges in an age appropriate manner.

So what does this actually mean?

A 6th grade ACE ELA student during the character reading unit, might be encouraged to read 3-4 novels while regular ELA classes read 2. As the ACE ELA student reads more, he or she will be asked to consider character archetypes and might even use Freud's theory of id, ego and superego to discuss a character's development.

During a nonfiction unit, an ACE ELA student might be encouraged to consider how microaggressions in advertising affect our perception and how to apply this knowledge to any nonfiction research.

Finally, sixth grade ACE ELA students might sample classic literature with a whole class novel reading of Animal Farm and then transition to classic graphic novels and then read contemporary novels that deal with similar issues or concepts and compare and contrast between how all these novels present similar issues.

These are all possible scenarios. Teachers maintain creative freedom in regards to units and book choices, but the emphasis is on conceptual and sophisticated thinking. The priority for the ACE ELA class is to challenge students in their reading, writing and thinking as appropriate. If you have specific questions about content, please contact Joan Miller, millerj@gjps.org, the ELA gifted specialist.