



An At-Home Guide for Families

6th Grade English Language Arts in North Carolina Public Schools

Course Outline

At the end of the course, my child will know...




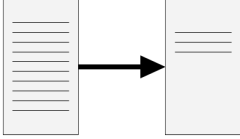

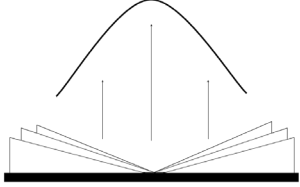



- How to identify the theme or central idea of a text.
- How to cite textual evidence.
- How to determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text.
- How to analyze the structure of texts.
- How to assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.
- How to integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
- How to delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
- How to compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres.
- How to analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.
- How to read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.
- How to write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- How to produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- How to demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Curious what the specific standards are for 6th Grade ELA in North Carolina?


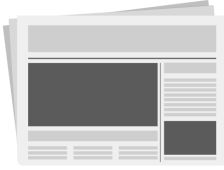



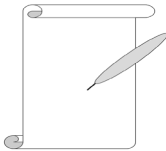
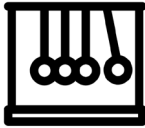
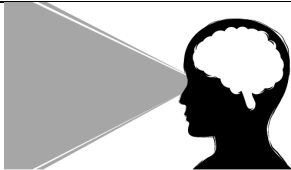
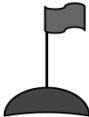
Check out the [North Carolina Standard Course of Study](#) to learn more. Looking for additional explanations about what students should be able to do at the end of this course? Check out [NC DPI's unpacked contents document](#).

Key Vocabulary



Visual	Term	Definition
	Analyze	a detailed examination of the components of a subject to understand its meaning and/or nature as a whole
	Evidence	facts and/or information (quotes, statistics, graphs, etc.) presented together as a body of support for a claim or value statement
	Inference	a conclusion derived from logical reasoning following an investigation of available evidence
	Summary/Summarize	a brief statement of the main points of a larger work or text; the act of providing such a statement or account
	Theme	the subject or underlying meaning that a literary text directly or indirectly explains, develops, and/or explores
	Plot	the sequence of events in a story, play, movie, etc.
	Compare & Contrast	compare – In a general sense, this is to measure or note the similarities and differences between or among objects, people, etc.; however, when used together with contrast, this refers to the highlighting of the ways in which two or more objects, people, etc. are alike or similar.
	Genre	a category or type of literature or art characterized by similarities in form, style, and subject
	Explicit	stated clearly and directly, leaving no room for confusion or interpretation



Visual	Term	Definition
	Evaluate	to determine quality or value after careful analysis or investigation
	Informational Text	a nonfiction text whose purpose is to provide information about or explain a topic (e.g., infographic, advertisement, documentary film, etc.)
	Editing	the process by which an author improves a text by correcting errors in grammar and/or conventions (e.g., grammatical, structural, etc.), verifying precision of language, eliminating redundancy, and more
	Interact	to act in such a manner as to influence another
	Paraphrase	express the meaning of something written or spoken using different words, generally for the purpose of clarification or understanding
	Poem	a literary work, generally composed in verse and using figurative language, typically composed using a set structure (i.e., organizational rules)
	Cause & Effect	cause: the reason(s) that something happens; effect: the consequences (both positive and negative) of the cause
	Point of View	a narrator's, writer's, or speaker's position regarding the events of a narrative; one's stance on events or information given his/her orientation (physically and/or mentally) to the events or information
	Claim	an assertion(s) of the truth of something, often a value statement; generally, an author uses evidence to support the assertion of truth



Learning in Action: Grade Level Skills

Examples of Grade Level Skills

Grade level example of using claim and text-based evidence:

Teachers should assign homework to their students. Homework creates a positive influence on students and their achievements. According to Duke University , “77 percent (of studies conducted) find the link between homework and achievement is positive.”

Grade level example of analyzing theme with text-based evidence:

I think *The Giver*’s theme is one of hope and bravery. Jonas shows us that we can strive to do and be better even when it may not be the easiest thing. He also shows that people can change and be brave even if the future is unknown and scary.

Grade level example of summarizing and using figurative language to examine metaphor within poetry:

“Mother to Son” by Langston Hughes uses a metaphor to compare life to a damaged and broken staircase and to provide hope in the form of motherly advice. Hughes’ metaphor explains how life can be difficult and challenging at times, that the only place to go is up, the staircase, or that all we can do in life is keep going through.

Grade level example of analyzing context clues within a multiple-choice format:

What does sample mean in the sentence below from the text?

“The chemist eventually identified the gemstone as a type of crystal and named the new discovery after the man who sent him the sample.”

- A. the whole item
- B. a small part
- C. the complete unit
- D. a heavy thing

The answer is: B

Resources

Links and online resources to allow you to support your child’s learning.

- [NEWSELA](#) - nonfiction news articles
- [EL Education](#) - 6th grade resources



- [Brainpop](#) - ELA Resources
- [Prodigy](#) - ELA game-based resource

At-Home Connections

It is so beneficial to talk with your child about anything they can read and/or observe. You can discuss news articles, movies, even TV shows! You can discuss with your child about things they noticed, what appealed to them, or what maybe didn't make sense.

- Tell me how to figure out the main idea of a story.
- Tell me about the setting of a story.
- Tell me how we can compare and contrast [any two things].
- Tell me how you know that's true [look for gathering evidence].
- Read a story or article together and talk about what you read.

Challenges to Anticipate

It is hard to watch our children struggle but this is an important part of the learning process. Be supportive and encouraging when struggles happen and encourage them to read whatever they enjoy for fun.

- Read often and make sure your child sees you reading for pleasure on your own.
- Ask your child to explain something they read about to help build confidence. Explaining to you will help with their understanding.
- Talk to your child about real world events and read about them with your child.

Communicating with Your Child's Teacher

Still feeling stuck? Reach out to your child's teacher to discuss what you can do further your child's learning. Some questions that might guide your discussion:

- What resources would you suggest I use to support my child?
- Where do you see my child struggling? What can we do together to help?
- What should my child practice at home?
- What collective message can we send together to help my child learn?

Need Technical Help?

Reach out to your student's home school for technical assistance. Include the type of device (PC, Mac, Chromebook, etc.) and browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc.).



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North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

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