Course Overview

Middle School | 6 | ELA - *Last Updated on August 21, 2025*

DESCRIPTION

K-12 Content Area | Mission and Philosophy Statement

- Foster a love for literacy across diverse backgrounds and abilities, ensuring equitable access to rich learning experiences equipping learners with the skills, mindset, and passion to engage actively as informed readers, writers, and communicators throughout their lives.
- Cultivate communicators and critical thinkers, empowering them to inquire, analyze, and create meaningfully from a variety of texts and perspectives, preparing them for the responsibilities of active participation as a citizen in our democracy as well as in an evolving global society.
- Engender collaborative and creative environments where learners innovate, elevate diverse voices and modalities to express themselves effectively and imaginatively.
- Promote a culturally responsive English Language Arts education that honors the identities, cultures, and experiences of all students, integrating diverse texts and voices to promote empathy, understanding, and respect.

Course Description

In sixth grade students begin to develop real-world skills that will transfer to college—and beyond. Students build critical thinking and problem-solving skills through close observation and analysis of texts, evidence-based writing, higher-order questioning, and engaging academic conversation. Throughout the curriculum, students embark on an enriching journey of literary exploration across four captivating units.

Students explore the topics of personal voice, resilience, courage, survival and truth in 6 connected units. Through the careful analysis of model narratives, students uncover the nuanced artistry of narrative techniques, thoughtful sequencing, and expressive language. They explore an array of narrative texts from diverse voices, fostering a deep appreciation for the universal allure of storytelling while nurturing their abilities to craft narratives that resonate with readers. Students delve further into integral facets of life's journey. Through immersive character studies, collaborative discussions, and thoughtful research, they think about the profound impacts of both internal and external forces, including the special bond between animals and humans. Students share their insights through literary responses and informative essays, celebrating the transformative power of navigating successfully challenging, difficult and uncomfortable situations and events. Students extend the exploration of choices and consequences, inviting reflection on the subtle nuances of decision-making. Through the lens of a novel and the inspiring life of historical figures, they contemplate the ripple effects of individual choices on both personal and societal levels, fostering empathy and understanding. Finally, students immerse themselves in the beauty of poetry and the magic of plays, refining their analytical, research, and performance skills with grace and confidence. This nurturing journey not only equips students with literary insights but also instills in them the resilience and adaptability needed to navigate life's ever-changing landscape.

***Long reads/choice read around the essential question are not included in the curriculum. These

would be pleasure reading to connect craft moves to the learning happening in the class.

STANDARDS

Pennsylvania - Grade 6 - English Language Arts ELA

CC.1.2.6.A CC.1.2.6.B CC.1.2.6.C CC.1.2.6.D CC.1.2.6.E CC.1.2.6.F CC.1.2.6.G
CC.1.2.6.H CC.1.2.6.I CC.1.3.6.A CC.1.2.6.L CC.1.2.6.K CC.1.2.6.J CC.1.3.6.B
CC.1.3.6.C CC.1.3.6.D CC.1.3.6.E CC.1.3.6.F CC.1.3.6.J CC.1.3.6.I CC.1.3.6.H
CC.1.3.6.G CC.1.3.6.K CC.1.4.6.A CC.1.4.6.B CC.1.4.6.C CC.1.4.6.D CC.1.4.6.E
CC.1.4.6.I CC.1.4.6.H CC.1.4.6.G CC.1.4.6.F CC.1.4.6.J CC.1.4.6.N CC.1.4.6.M
CC.1.4.6.L CC.1.4.6.K CC.1.4.6.P CC.1.4.6.O CC.1.4.6.Q CC.1.4.6.R CC.1.4.6.V
CC.1.4.6.U CC.1.4.6.T CC.1.4.6.S CC.1.4.6.W CC.1.4.6.X CC.1.5.6.A CC.1.5.6.B
CC.1.5.6.F CC.1.5.6.E CC.1.5.6.D CC.1.5.6.C CC.1.5.6.G

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Specific objectives for this course are aligned with the Pennsylvania Core Standards for English Language Arts and the Eligible Content State Standards for English Language Arts.

ASSESSMENT TYPES

- Diagnostic Assessments
- Core/Choice Novel notes
- Curriculum-based measures
- Formative Assessments
- Summative Assessments

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SUGGESTED METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Below is a list of suggested strategies for high-quality instruction in English Language Arts:

- Instructional components outlined in the Framework for Teaching by Charlotte Danielson
- Goal setting
- Collaborative earning through Socratic Seminar
- Formative opportunities to drive instruction
- Think-pair-share
- Reciprocal teaching
- Read Alouds and student independent choice novels
- Student choice and voice in demonstrating knowledge

RESOURCES

Student Text Resources • HMH Program Components • *The Giver* by Lois Lowry • *Beethoven in Paradise* by Barbara O'Connor • *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson • *Amos Fortune, Free Man* by Elizabeth Yates • *The Firefly Letters* by Margarita Engle • *New Kid* by Jerry Craft • *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai • *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan • *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse • *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper • *Dragonwings* by Laurence Yep • *The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson • *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis • *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio • *Home of the Brave* by Katherine Applegate • *Julie of the Wolves* by Jean Craighead George • *Primates: The Fearless Science of Goodall, Fossey, and* Galdikas by Jim Ottaviani & Maris Wicks • *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker	**Teacher Resources** • Other SV library titles that have the same theme/essential question connection. • Accessing Complex Text by Fisher and Frey • Vocabulary Workshop by Sadlier and Oxford • Word Power Advanced 2, published by Contemporary Power • Coach Practice Assessments ELA 2nd Edition • PSSA Performance Coach ELA 6 • IXL • Writable • Nearpod • Blooket/Kahoot/Gimkit • Measures of Academic Performance • Classroom Diagnostic Assessments	

• *Old Yeller* by Fred Gipson • *A Dog's Purpose* by W. Bruce Cameron • *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen • *Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park • *Ninth Ward* by Jewell Parker Rhodes • *Life As We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer • *Bamboo People* by Mitali Perkins • *Holes* by Louis Sachar • *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan • *Gone Crazy in Alabama* by Rita Williams-Garcia • *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz • *Black Ships Before Troy* by Rosemary Sutcliff • *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling • Public domain novels are available within HMH		