

MYP Language and Literature For students entering Grade 6

Welcome to the excitement of middle school!

The aims of the Middle Years Programme Language and Literature are to encourage and enable students to:

- use language as a vehicle for thought, creativity, reflection, learning, self-expression, analysis and social interaction
- develop the skills involved in listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and presenting in a variety of contexts
- develop critical, creative and personal approaches to studying and analyzing literary and non-literary texts
- engage with text from different historical periods and a variety of cultures
- explore and analyze aspects of personal, host and other cultures through literary and non-literary texts
- explore language through a variety of media and modes
- develop a lifelong interest in reading

In order for students to maintain their focus on these aims, the Westlake Academy teachers advise all students to read and write everyday during the summer.

For those who wish to have additional practice, Khan Academy offers courses in Reading and Language Arts.

Here are the expectations for Summer Reading for 6th Grade.

6TH GRADE REQUIRED TEXTS

Genre	Title	Comments
Novel in Verse	<u>Please read the following:</u> <i>And Then Boom</i> by Lisa Fipps	Students should read <i>And Then Boom</i> and at least one of the five optional novels for their summer reading and be prepared to discuss and complete creative projects about the reading upon the start of school in August. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Bassett at abassett@westlakeacademy.org . (You will need your own physical copies of your books.)
Realistic Fiction	<u>plus Choose ONE of the following:</u> <i>The Fourth Stall (Part 1)</i> by Chris Rylander	
Graphic Novel	<i>New Kid</i> by Jerry Craft	
Realistic Fiction	<i>Pax</i> by Sara Pennypacker	
Historical Fiction	<i>The War That Saved My Life</i> by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	
Classic Fiction	<i>The Wizard of Oz</i> by L. Frank Baum	

Writing Expectations:

To maintain and practice writing skills, students are encouraged to write every day. This writing practice can be achieved through a number of activities, including the following:

- journaling
- writing poetry
- writing letters
- writing email
- maintaining a diary
- creating summer itineraries

****Please note that the majority of writing assignments during the school year must be handwritten. Therefore, it is highly recommended that students practice writing by hand (with a pen) throughout the summer.**

Grammar/Punctuation/Spelling Expectations:

Grammar instruction is a major focus of all MYP Language and Literature classes.

Pursuant to the MYP Grammar Alignment, students entering Grade 6 are expected to have mastered the following concepts:

- simple and compound sentences with subject-verb agreement and avoidance of run-ons and fragments
- Capitalization including the beginning of a sentence, proper nouns including names and places, and I
- Proper punctuation marks
- Parts of speech including nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs

If a student does not feel that they have mastered any of these concepts, extra practice and review during the summer is advised. Here is a link to a helpful resource:

● [NoRedInk](#) (the app or NoRedInk.com) is always available, and it contains helpful lessons and practice opportunities.

Ultimately, the transition to middle school is a big deal. My primary goal is for your student to become a more confident and competent communicator through all of the changes. Any opportunities you provide your child to process life verbally with you is an incredibly valuable piece of the puzzle. Enjoy your summer and embrace the gift of literature and language as you interact with your family.

Blessings,
Mrs. Bassett