

# **English Language Arts Curriculum**

## **Grade 6**

***Reading Standards***

*Students will read texts from a variety of genres such as Maroo of the Winter Caves, A Long Walk to Water, The Cay, and Pharaoh’s Daughter. They will also develop their non-ficiton reading skills through reading authentic non-fiction articles on a variety of topics, including their Social Studies units. Students will also have the opportunity to select novels throughout the year to practice the application of critical reading skills. One unit is dedicated to reading, writing and analyzing poetry. Students will learn and practice formal strategies to locate main idea and supporting details to write summaries as well as practice using textual evidence to support ideas, connections, and inferences.*

**Standard 1: Reads and comprehends a variety of grade-level texts**

* Read, analyze, and discuss the characteristics of various genres
* Relate a literary work to artifacts, artistic creations, or historical sites of the period of its setting
* Read, analyze and discuss poetry, historical fiction, nonfiction, and young adult literature selections.
* Determine importance, make connections, visualize, and synthesize information to strengthen comprehension of text.
* Use knowledge of genre to analyze text
* Learn and apply strategies for using text features such as titles, subtitles, captions, italics, bold face, text boxes, and pictures to enhance comprehension.
* Identify and use knowledge of common textual features, graphic features, and organizational structures to deepen comprehension
* Find main idea, supporting details, and summarize text

**Standard 2: Analyzes the elements of literature to comprehend text**

* Interpret character’s traits, emotions, or motivations to determine how a character changes or responds to plot events throughout a story.
* Identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of theme across a variety of selections; distinguish theme from topic
* Identify setting as time, place and mood
* Identify significant plot events
* Select textual evidence to support an analysis of a text.
* Identify poetic elements in a variety of poetry
* Apply strategies to discover meaning

***Writing Standards***

*All students will write a variety of essays, arguments, stories, poems, and literary analysis, with an emphasis of writing expository pieces. This will prepare students to write in all content areas, to think deeply about the content they are learning, and to develop more in-depth understanding of the texts that they read. Additionally, instruction will focus on using the writing process and sharpening language and revision skills. Reading and writing will be linked through essays and open responses. Grammar, usage, and spelling will be taught and practiced.*

**Standard 3: Writes with clear focus, organization, and supporting details**

* Use effective pre-writing strategies to develop and organize ideas.
* Organize ideas into coherent essays or reports using the Pillar structure of essays.
* Write essays and paragraphs that contain broad-yet-distinct main ideas, and details that support them.
* Elaborate ideas using descriptive segments, sensory images, specific vocabulary, facts, statistics, and direct quotations.
* Understand the purpose of and write effective introductions and conclusions.
* Summarize and restate key ideas.
* Write reports that include quotations and a bibliography.
* Write poems using poetic techniques.
* Revise work to improve organization and the precision of vocabulary.
* Use transitions and connections between ideas and chunks of information.

**Standard 4: Uses standard English conventions in writing, revising, and editing**

* Apply identified grammar competencies in speaking, writing and editing.
* Identify simple, compound, and complex sentences.
* Identify the eight parts of speech, their functions, and usage in sentences.
* Identify and use phrases in sentences; eliminate sentence fragments and run-on sentences; correctly capitalize and punctuate. Spell high frequency words correctly in all writing.

***Research Standard***

*Students will work on interdisciplinary units linking content knowledge with research and writing skills. A variety of presentation methods will be explored (i.e., Power Point, oral presentations, written reports, etc.).*

**Standard 5: Use research skills to write reports**

* Apply steps for obtaining information from a variety of sources, organize and document sources, present research in a project or paper.
* Differentiate between primary and secondary sources
* Differentiate between paraphrasing and using direct quotes in a report
* Use standard bibliographic format to document sources