

## Sixth Grade Language Arts

Sixth grade language arts focuses on literature, composition, grammar concepts, vocabulary study, and research skills. Much of the literature studied is integrated with the content of the social studies program. Students use writing, vocabulary and research skills to enhance study in science, math and social studies; grammar skills are reinforced through the literature

### Literature

Students will read and discuss a variety of literary pieces throughout the course of the year including novels, poetry, and selections from their literature anthology.

**Reading skills:** setting a purpose for reading, skimming, scanning, distinguishing fact and opinion, activating prior knowledge, visualizing, responding, interpreting, and drawing conclusions.

**Literary elements:** narrator, point of view, chronological order, tone, bias, argument, mood, poetic devices, dialogue, conflict, plot, characterization, clarifying, comparing, contrasting, identifying main idea and supporting details.

Additionally, students will complete monthly book reports.

### Vocabulary

Students will work with the *WordWeb Vocabulary* series—a prefix, suffix, and root based vocabulary program. They will understand the meaning of each a prefix, suffix, and root word and how to use it effectively in the English Language.

### Speech/Communication

Students will deliver speeches/presentations on a regular basis. As a minimum they will present five book report presentations.

Students will create a presentation from one of the following categories: myth, legend, folktale, fable, or fairytale to present to our younger students.

Students will create and present a PowerPoint presentation based on an assigned area of research.

Students will participate in debates as well as share writing and other assignments with their class.

Students will perform scenes from the screenplay *Cheaper By the Dozen* based on the book by Frank Gilbreth, Jr. and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey

Forensics is available as an extracurricular activity for interested students.

### The Writing Process

Students will write on a daily basis throughout the year. The primary focus is on how to effectively write the classic five-paragraph essay using the power writing technique supported by 6+1 Writing Traits. In addition, students will submit a myth, legend or folktale, advertisement, compilation of poetry, and in-class writing.

Students will actively use the writing process: Prewriting, Drafting, Revision, Editing, and Final Copy

Students will engage in learning and using the 6+1 Writing Traits: Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions, and Presentation

### Research

Students will undertake a collaborative language arts and social studies research project based on a specific area of study in social studies (This varies from year to year.) The research focuses primarily on one particular area of influence such as music, art, dance, medicine, science, etc. They will give an oral presentation complete with sources, note cards, outlines, MLA citations, and a works cited page.