

LANGUAGE ARTS I

6th Grade Syllabus

2021-2022

TEACHER INFORMATION

Mrs. JoAnna Longa-Smith

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- Master's of Science in Secondary English Ed. (in progress) at USF

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will read and analyze different literary genres including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. Students will read, analyze, and write expository, narrative, argumentative, and persuasive essays, as well as learn to develop ideas fully, organize them effectively, and express them clearly. Students will use speaking strategies effectively and understand the nature and power of language. Critical thinking is integrated into all components of the course therefore, students will engage in the learning process as critical and creative thinkers.

COURSE MATERIALS

Pens or pencils (w/sharpener as needed);

Spiral notebook (1 per semester)

Supplies

Students are expected to have their Language Arts notebook and writing utensils with them in class every day. Student notebooks may be kept in the classroom. Students are also encouraged to keep a copy of the quarterly novel study choice book on them as assignments and activities related to the books will be done on an ongoing basis (weekly assignments and check-ins).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Textbook (consumable notebook and online in myLearning)

APEX and McGraw-Hill's studysync (for Florida) supplemental materials: Students will have access to all curriculum in the studysync consumable notebook as well as the online textbook as part of a class on **MyLearning** via **MyPascoConnect** (link available on school website: <https://csrms.pasco.k12.fl.us/> (Links to an external site.)).

All homework is posted in **MyLearning** via **MyPascoConnect**. Parents may login with a supervisory account after Open House.

Each unit will culminate in an exam, and each Segment [Semester] will include a final Exam for the semester. Also, each Segment [Semester] will incorporate a Collaboration Project and novel study (choice options available). Additionally, Quarter 2 will include our speech component: #Pasco Students Speak.

Standards

The new Florida B.E.S.T. Standards are integrated consistently throughout all units. Students will work with complex texts, (informational and literary) to write and support claims citing textual evidence. Students will identify, compare and analyze theme, author's craft, text structure, central ideas, and text features. Students will develop sophisticated writing skills, demonstrating mastery of language conventions, narrative techniques and organizational structures. Students will engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussion and present their findings in a focused, coherent manner. Students will navigate texts with challenging vocabulary and take ownership of vocabulary through word study.

Novel Studies

Students will participate in quarterly thematic novel studies. Students will be notified of each quarter's book selection options prior to the start of the quarter or unit of study. Class sets may be available; in addition, free PDF versions may be provided (when available), or students are encouraged to obtain their own copy should they choose to annotate directly in the text (book). Students are not required to purchase a copy of the book as they may use their electronic readers for purchase or the occasional free download: [https://padlet.com/david_shelley/xfwjc2hpszodv (Links to an external site.)].

Per Pasco County School Board Policy- 2240 - CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

The Board recognizes that a course of study or certain instructional materials may contain content and/or activities that some parents find objectionable. If after careful, personal review of the program lessons and/or materials, a parent indicates to the school that either the content or the activity conflicts with his religious beliefs or value system, the school will consider a written request for his child to be excused from a particular class for specified reasons. The student, however, will not be excused from participating in the course and will be provided alternate learning activities during times of such parent requested absences.

GRADING POLICIES

Final grades are based on the following scale:

A=100-90; B=89-80; C=79-70; D=69-60; F=59-0

Areas of Assessment

Students are formally assessed through tests (exams and quizzes) and projects, and informally assessed within the classroom setting through participation in discussion and class work. Students will document their growth through the use of technology, portfolios, journals, and personal goal setting. Final course grades are based upon the following categories of assessments:

- Quizzes and Exams

- Essays and Collaboration Projects
- Classwork and Homework

Late Work

- **Assignments:** Late assignments will NOT be accepted after one week from due date (or one week after student returns from excused absence or quarantine), and any late assignment will receive a zero. Assignments will always be checked at the beginning or end of the class period on the day it is due – this depends on when the work is assigned. If an assignment is not in class at that time, it is considered late.
- **Projects:** Major projects such as research papers or culminating unit projects will be completed during class time unless the student feels the need to work on them at home. Projects are due on the due date provided there are no extenuating circumstances.
- **Emergencies:** Exceptions to late work policies may be made on a case-by-case basis in the event of an emergency. Parent phone call or email note is required for consideration.

Monitoring Student Progress

In addition to report cards issued at the end of the quarter, students will receive mid-term progress reports. Parents are highly encouraged to obtain a **MyStudent** login for access to their student's gradebook ([Parent Observer set up instructions](#) – links to external site) to keep informed of student progress on a more regular basis, or monitor the **Grades** folder in each **myLearning** course.

Academic Integrity

In addition to good academic performance, students should exhibit honesty and integrity. If there is any question that academic honesty and integrity are not honored, students may be required to redo assignments. Proof of dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action, and an intervention course on “Academic Integrity vs. Plagiarism” may be assigned in myLearning and monitored for completion by school administration.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

Student Conduct

The 6th Grade behavior interventions are as follows:

1. Verbal reminder (maximum 3)
2. Parent contact and Detention
3. Parent contact and Discipline Referral

Dress Code

Dress Code Violations will result in student being sent to Office Staff to await appropriate clothes from home (or borrow donated clothes) and a note home to be signed by parents. Continued infractions will result in lunch detention and then discipline referral. Please refer to

school website (<http://csrms.pasco.k12.fl.us/> (Links to an external site.)) or the *StudentPlanner* on **MyLearning** via **MyPascoConnect** (<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/> (Links to an external site.)) for details and pictures of appropriate vs. inappropriate school dress. Thank you for your cooperation.

Absences

It is to your child's benefit that he or she attends school daily! No amount of make-up work or note copying can compensate for the class discussion and peer activity that your child misses when absent. However, some absences are unavoidable. It is the student's responsibility to seek out missed work.

- **Excused:** If a child is absent from school the day an assignment is due and he or she was in class the day it was assigned, it is his or her responsibility to bring in the work the day he or she returns to school. Students will receive one day for every excused absence to make up class assignments and homework. If a project with a week or more notice is assigned, the student will need to work with the teacher to discuss an alternate date for submission for planned absences.
- **Unexcused:** Unexcused absences will not be allowed to make up class assignments or homework.
- **Quarantine:** If a student is placed on quarantine, all materials are available on mylearning for students to work on from home. This course is updated daily. They are welcome to ask questions by contacting Mrs. Longa at jlonga@pasco.k12.fl.us.

Planner

CSRMS student planners are available online via MyLearning on MyPascoConnect (<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/> (Links to an external site.)). All class work and homework assignments are posted in each course's myLearning Modules, and on the classroom board and discussed during the class period. Every student is responsible for taking notes on assignments in his or her notebook and knowing the due date for each assignment. Parents can keep informed of daily and upcoming assignments by viewing their child's notebook or gradebook (myLearning).