

**New Paltz Central School District
English Language Arts
Sixth Grade**

**Unit 1: Nature: *On the Far Side of the Mountain*
(September - November)
(10 weeks)**

Essential Questions

- What is descriptive writing?
- How do readers make sense of text?

Content

- Comprehension strategies
- Literacy elements
- Determining the meaning of unfamiliar words
- Descriptive writing

Standards/Skills

- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- Analyze quotes

Assessments (formative and summative)

- Chapter skills checks/quizzes
- Final unit test on novel
- Descriptive paragraph and essay

Key Vocabulary/Teacher Language

Figurative language

simile
metaphor
personification

Parts of speech/grammar

noun
pronoun

adjective
verb
adverb
subject
predicate

Literary elements

setting
character traits
author's purpose
genre
theme
conflict
resolution
foreshadowing
flashback

Parts of an essay

introduction/hook
background information
thesis statement
conclusion

Parts of a paragraph

topic sentence
supporting details
expanded details
concluding sentence

Comprehension strategies

schema
context clues
prediction
questioning - literal and inferential

Resources

- *On the Far Side of the Mountain*, Jean Craighead George
- *Rescue Josh McGuire*, Ben Mikaelson
- Readings and poems by John Burroughs

Possible Minilessons

- Invitation to notice figurative language
- Text details for character traits
- Context clues for vocabulary

- Answering comprehension questions using text details
- Structure of an essay
- Identifying figurative language and incorporating figurative language into writing