

Grade 6 ELA Overview...

Sixth grade readers build on previous reading and writing skills. Students support their analysis of texts incorporating both stated and implied evidence from the text. Students will determine the author's reason or point of view and understand how it has influenced the writing of the text. They will continue to determine a central idea and begin to summarize without opinion or judgment. Additionally, students will compare and contrast texts of different forms and/or genres that share similar themes or topics.

Sixth grade students continue to write for many purposes. Sixth grade writers begin to craft written arguments using reasons with relevant evidence as support. For explanatory pieces, students will inform through their ability to select, organize, and analyze a topic. As narrative writers, students will develop stories using effective literary techniques. Writers will improve their ability to develop and organize ideas by paying close attention to text structure. Students will be able to discern the writing style necessary based on their knowledge of the task, audience, and purpose.

Units of Study: These units are intended to foster students' ability to: read and comprehend a range of increasingly complex texts; seek answers through critical analysis of text; communicate ideas effectively in writing to suit a particular audience and purpose; develop the habit of reading for enjoyment; understand the power of words and images to transform lives; and provide insight into the experiences of others and understanding of cultures and historical periods.

Craft of Fiction; Narratives and Stories: Using a variety of short stories as mentor texts, students explore and develop the techniques of narrative writing in order to create engaging stories.

Learning from History; Risking for Others: Students delve into the past in order to better understand the present by reading, discussing, and writing about historical fiction and nonfiction regarding the Holocaust.

Facing danger and overcoming odds; survival stories: Students learn about the resilience of the human experience by reading, thinking, talking, and writing about what is essential for survival.

Growing up in Wartime: Students read an autobiographical account of World War II. The story is told through the voice of a child allowing them to learn about a time and place that is very different from their own.

Human Experience: Through a variety of texts that demonstrate the diversity of our world, students read, discuss, and write about cultural identity.

Life in the Sudan: In a unit that combines Social Studies, geography, fiction, and nonfiction, students grapple with the fact that location dictates how you live.

Coming of Age during the Great Depression: Students view footage, read novels and articles, and consider the impact of this time in American History on growing up, paying particular attention to the African American experience.

Preparation for Standardized Assessment: In this unit of study, students prepare for the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment.

Literary Criticism: In this Unit, students compare texts, think critically, and apply what they have learned. Students will participate in conversations with classmates about fiction and nonfiction texts and write critically about their reading.

Narrative Writing: Students utilize effective techniques, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences in narrative writing. A sixth grade focus for writing narrative is skillful inclusion of figurative language.

Argument Writing: Students will take a stance on a topic, articulate a claim and logically support that claim with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

Informative Writing: Students will write informative pieces to examine a topic, convey ideas, concepts, and information by selecting, organizing, and analyzing relevant content.

Literary Analysis: Students will write essays based on their reading to present and develop a central idea and use evidence and details from the texts to support their thesis.

Sixth Grade: Scope and Pacing Guide (Most units can be offered at any time during the year and will vary by classroom.)*indicates unit should be taught at the specified time.										
Units	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June
*Craft of Fiction; Narratives and Stories	4 weeks 									
Learning from History; Risking for Others		4-5 weeks 								
Facing danger and overcoming odds; survival stories			3 weeks 							
Growing up in Wartime				4 weeks 						
Human Experience					3 weeks 					
Life in the Sudan						3-4 weeks 				
Coming of Age during the Great Depression									6-7 weeks 	
Preparation for Standardized Assessment*							3 weeks 			
Literary Criticism						3 weeks 				
Writing Throughout the School Year										
Narrative Writing										
Informative Writing										
Argument Writing										
Literary Analysis										