

6th Grade Language Arts and Literature Syllabus

M, T, Th, F: 12:20-1:50, **W:** 12:15-12:50

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Class Website: <http://sjsscienceandmath.weebly.com>

Course Description

Sixth grade language arts and literature meet daily. Language arts focuses on composition skills, while literature focuses on reading skills. The purpose of these classes is to provide students with integrated educational experiences. Language arts will include writing, oral communication, and grammar. Literature will include listening, speaking, vocabulary and reading. Technology use and instruction is integrated throughout the course. Ultimately, students will spend class time developing as independent readers and writers by participating in reading and writing workshop, direct group instruction, one-on-one conferencing, and cooperative learning activities.

Student Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Write well-organized descriptive, narrative and expository paragraphs, essays, stories and poems using the writing process, and free from basic errors
2. Demonstrate knowledge of different writing structures
3. Define, write, and identify literary devices and elements of fiction
4. Read, personally respond, and analyze selected works of fiction and non-fiction, including novels, short stories, poems, and non-fiction text
5. Improve oral reading and presentation skills
6. Show growth in spelling and vocabulary
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the structure of Standard American English
8. Demonstrate an understanding of the writing process
9. Analyze and evaluate one's own writing and the writing of others
10. Set personal reading and writing goals and work toward meeting those goals
11. Develop ability to use writing resources effectively (*i.e. handbooks, spell check, dictionary*)
12. Participate effectively in class discussion
13. Work cooperatively in groups
14. Successfully use technology to complete assignments

Major Projects and Assignments

Advance notice will be given for all major assignments so students may manage time effectively. Daily homework and in-class work will be assigned on a regular basis. As a class, we will read a variety of novels, as well as short stories and poetry. Participation on in-class quick writes is expected. Regular grammar and vocabulary homework will be assigned. Vocabulary quizzes

will occur weekly or bi-monthly, according to class progress and adjusted for school holidays, etc.

Standards for Written Work

Students are expected to follow these standards:

- Work must be turned in with a proper heading including full name and class number, class section, and date in the upper right hand corner of the paper
- Crumpled, torn papers, paper with doodles and paper ripped from a spiral notebook will not be accepted
- All final papers are to be written in ink (unless otherwise specified by the teacher) or typed and completed by the due date
 - Write neatly, (in cursive only if assigned by teacher) -Typed work must be double spaced in 12 pt. Times New Roman font with one inch margins
- Papers with multiple pages must be presented with a single staple in the upper left hand corner

Homework/Website

All major assignments and projects relate directly to defined outcomes. Homework is designed to support student achievement. Students should expect to spend regular time studying at home. Students are required to read 20-30 minutes daily—either during school or at home. Additional homework will be assigned as necessary. Homework and curriculum updates are posted on our classroom website.

Writing Portfolios

Corrected student work is kept either in student binders or in their portfolios. Grades will be available via the portal; however students are expected to share their assignments and finished work with their parents. A signature will sometimes be required. Students will keep major assignments and reading/writing assessments in their portfolios. Portfolio work will be shared at conferences, mid-year, and sent home at the end of the year.

Make-Up Policy

If a student is absent, he/she should arrange for any make-up work the day of return. Students are first directed to the website and classmates to collect any missed work. Substantial notice is given on larger assignments and tests; a single day's absence does not excuse a student from tests or work due the day of his/her return. (If you are absent the day a major assignment is due, be prepared to turn it in the day you return!)

Practice Personal and Academic Integrity

I expect you to do your own work in and outside of class, unless you are specifically working on a cooperative assignment. Charges of cheating are very serious. Cheating is defined as: copying, lending or sharing assignments, communicating in any way during a test, or

plagiarizing papers. Using information from other students, the internet or any other written material is considered plagiarism. Cheating is a major offense and will result in a conduct referral.

Assessment

Various forms of assessment will be used, depending on the assignment. Students are given clear guidelines, expectations and means of evaluation (*i.e. Rubrics*). Homework assignments or small in-class assignments typically total 10 points and are evaluated as follows:

- 10 pts. Outstanding
- 8-9 pts. Good
- 6-7 pts. Needs Work
- 5 and below Incomplete/ Needs Review

For all other assignments, points are given depending on the weight/importance of the assignment. Points are tallied and calculated on the standard grade percentage scale as articulated in the Parent/Student SJS Handbook. Grades are weighted.

<u>Literature</u>	<u>Language Arts</u>
<u>50% Reading Comprehension</u>	<u>50% Major Assignments/Writing</u>
<u>20% Independent Reading</u>	<u>20% Presentations/Speaking</u>
<u>20% Vocab</u>	<u>20% Grammar</u>
<u>10% Participation</u>	<u>10% Participation</u>

Participation grade is based on the following:

- Coming to class on-time, being prepared for class with all materials.
- Maintaining an organized cubby space (*homeroom students only*)
- Actively listening and respectfully following instructions.
- Engaging in class activities, being on-task.
- Asking questions, contributing to discussion.

Please review this document with your parent(s) and both you and your parent should sign below to acknowledge that you have read and understand this syllabus.

_____ Student Signature

_____ Parent Signature