

DODGE CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

GRADE 6 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Performance Criteria

OVERVIEW

In 6th grade, students read and understand a wide range of high-quality texts, including stories, plays, and poems from across cultures and time periods. 6th graders also read and understand informational texts from a variety of subject areas, including history/social studies, and science. 6th grade students use a number of strategies to learn new words, and use the words in stories, reports, and discussions. They write for a range of reasons: to argue a position, demonstrate understanding of a topic, and tell stories. Students also apply their skills to research, gathering information and learning to evaluate the sources.

READING:

Making Inferences

Cite evidence to explain what a story, play, poem, or informational text says, and what clues can be used to make inferences or “read between the lines.”

Identifying the Main Theme

Identify the theme or main idea in both literary and informational text.

Tracing an Argument

Trace an argument and specific claims in a text, differentiating claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.

Understanding New Words and Phrases

Use different strategies to understand new words and phrases; for example, use context as a clue; use common Greek and Latin roots as a clue; consult a dictionary online or in print.

WRITING:

Supporting Arguments

Write arguments that state a claim, and support the claim with clear reasons and relevant evidence from credible or trusted sources.

Developing Story Elements

Write stories or narratives about real or imaginary experiences. Establish a context and develop story elements such as characters, a well-sequenced plot, and descriptive details.

Supporting Thinking and Research

Include evidence from text to support thinking and research

Using Technology

Use technology to produce and publish writing, and to work on writing with others.

Using a Computer Keyboard

Use a computer keyboard comfortably.

SPEAKING & LISTENING:

Class Participation

Participate in class discussions about complex 6th grade topics, texts, and issues. Be prepared to refer to evidence in a text when discussing ideas, to restate other people's ideas, and to understand other perspectives

Giving a Presentation

Give a clear, well-organized presentation about an argument or research finding. Support ideas with facts, details, and descriptions.

RESEARCH & INQUIRY:

Research Projects

Conduct short research projects to answer a research question, gathering information from several print and online sources, and refocusing the question when needed.

GRADE 7 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Performance Criteria

OVERVIEW

In 7th grade, students read and understand increasingly challenging stories, plays, and poems from across cultures and time periods. They also read and understand literary nonfiction, and informational texts from a variety of subject areas including history/social studies and science. 7th grade students write for a range of reasons: to argue a position, demonstrate understanding of a topic, and share stories and experiences. They also apply their skills to making presentations, giving clear information about an argument or research finding.

READING:

Rich and Challenging Texts

Reading:

Read closely from rich and challenging 7th-grade-level texts, with guidance when text is particularly demanding.

Learning New Words and Phrases

Use different strategies to understand new words and phrases; for example, use context as a clue; use common Greek and Latin roots as a clue; consult a dictionary online or in print.

- Examples of common Greek roots: *biblio* (book) as in bibliography; *therm* (heat) as in thermometer.
- Examples of common Latin roots: *aqua* (water), as in aquarium; *cent* (hundred), as in century

WRITING:

Making Supported Arguments

Write arguments that state a claim, acknowledge alternate or opposing claims, and support the claim with reasons and evidence from accurate and credible sources.

Informative Papers

Write informative or explanatory papers that examine a topic and express ideas by carefully selecting and analyzing information. Use facts, details, and other information to develop the topic.

Using Basic Grammar Rules

Use basic rules of English grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling in written work. (Incorrect: *Walking to school, the bus went by a group of kids.* Correct: *Walking to school, a group of kids saw the bus go by.*)

SPEAKING & LISTENING:

Class Discussions

Participate in class discussions about complex 7th grade topics, texts, and issues. Be prepared to refer to evidence in a text when discussing ideas, and be open to revising a viewpoint in response to new ideas.

GRADE 8 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Performance Criteria

Overview

In 8th grade, students read and understand a variety of informational texts including essays, speeches, biographies, and other types of historical, scientific, and technical material. Students also read and understand a wide range of literature such as stories, plays, and poems from across cultures and time periods. In writing and class discussions, 8th graders continue to gather information from multiple sources, and evaluate whether the sources are credible and accurate. Students write both short, focused compositions, and longer papers that involve research, reflection, and revision over time.

READING:

Rich and Challenging Texts

Read rich and challenging 8th grade level texts closely, proficiently, and independently.

Citing Evidence

Cite evidence that best supports what a literary or informational text says, as well as what it implies or suggests.

Analyzing Themes

Analyze the way an author develops the theme or central idea of a text, noting how the characters, setting, and plot are connected. Summarize the text objectively.

Understanding Vocabulary

Read and understand 8th grade vocabulary, and determine how an author's word choices, including the use of analogies and allusion, impact the meaning and tone of a text.

- An analogy is a comparison of two different things that have some similarities. (*When he moved to town, he was a fish out of water.*)
- An allusion is a reference to a person, place, or event. (*He has a Midas touch* is a reference to the Greek myth of King Midas, whose touch turned everything to gold.)

WRITING:

Making Supported Arguments

Write arguments that state a claim, differentiate the claim from alternate or opposing views, and support the claim with reasons and evidence from accurate and credible sources.

Informative Papers

Write informative or explanatory papers that examine a topic and express ideas by carefully selecting and analyzing information. Use facts, details, and other information to develop the topic.

Creating Stories

Write stories or narratives about real or imaginary experiences. Establish a context and point of view, and develop story elements such as characters, a well-sequenced plot, and descriptive details.

Including Evidence

Include evidence from text to support thinking and research.

Producing and Publishing

Use technology to produce and publish writing, and to work with others on writing.

Basic Rules of English

Use basic rules of English grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling in written work.

- For example, use a comma, dash, or ellipsis (...) to indicate a pause.
- Use verbs in the active and passive voices (Active: *He is eating chicken*. Passive: *Chicken is being eaten by him*.)

SPEAKING & LISTENING:

Class Discussion

Participate in class discussions about complex 8th-grade topics, texts, and issues. Be prepared to refer to evidence in a text when discussing ideas, and be open to explaining and modifying a viewpoint in response to the ideas of others.

RESEARCH & INQUIRY:

Research Projects

Conduct short research projects to answer a research question, including a self-created question. Gather information from print and online sources, and generate additional questions for further exploration.

Locating Information

Locate information efficiently; use effective search terms online.

Evaluating Sources

Evaluate whether sources are accurate and can be trusted. Quote or paraphrase material correctly without plagiarizing or copying. Cite sources appropriately.