

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:

Rich & Challenging Text

Read closely from rich and challenging 6th grade-level texts, with guidance when text is particularly demanding.

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, based on specific details; summarize the text without adding opinions.

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.

Vocabulary, Text Meaning, and Tone

Read and understand 6th grade vocabulary, and determine how an author’s word choices affect the meaning and tone of a text.

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.

Informative Papers

Write informative or explanatory papers that examine a topic and express information clearly. Use facts, details, and other information to develop the topic.

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; type at least three pages in a single sitting.

Using Basic Grammar Rules

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

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

Explaining Speakers' Claims

Listen to and describe another speaker's arguments and claims, and explain whether the claims are supported by reasons and evidence.

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.

Evaluating Sources

Evaluate whether sources can be trusted, and paraphrase or summarize the material without copying it. Provide a basic bibliography or list of sources.