

Course Description

6th Grade English

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The 6th Grade Language Arts Curriculum integrates literature, vocabulary, writing and grammar together in a 21st Century setting. The students will be given the opportunity to create blogs (on-line journals) where they can log and reflect upon their independent reading. They will be asked to engage in discussion forums where they will post their writing for the teacher and other students enrolled in the course to view and respond. They will be presented with the possibility of creating a multimedia report rather than a traditional research paper. This course will empower life-long learners- who are actively engaged in their own learning and take ownership of their scholastic endeavors.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: After completing the course, students will be able to:

1. Read, speak and write fluently at the 6th grade level.
2. Analyze characteristics of various types of texts.
3. Draw on experience to bring meaning to words in context.
4. Write fluently at the 6th grade level with very few grammar or spelling errors.
5. Establish and adjust purpose for reading and use a variety of comprehension strategies to withdraw meaning from the text.
6. Speak fluently about the literature from their own culture along with the literature from other cultures around the world.
7. Frame questions to direct inquiry and research.
8. Constructively evaluate his/her own writing and the writing of others using the language of the 6+1 Traits of Writing.

PRE-REQUISITES: 5th Grade Language Arts

COURSE LENGTH: One year

REQUIRED TEXT: None; Reading List to be provided

COURSE OUTLINE:

Unit I: Introduction to a World of Literature – Topics include: Writing Personal Anecdotes; Select Independent Reading Novel from Attached List; The History of Our Language; Vocabulary: Root Trees; Grammar/Conventions: Where do all these rules come from anyway?; Translation: How are we reading a poem written by a Chinese Woman who never heard a word of English?; Writing: Jigsaw Cultural Research Report or Multimedia Report

Unit II: Who Am I? *Finding your Voice* – Topics include: 6+1 Traits of Writing Overview; Writer’s Workshop: Voice; Literature with Voice; Creation of Character; Vocabulary: Root Trees; Grammar/Conventions: Punctuation; Spelling Challenge/ Demon List; Writing: Short Story: Concentration on Voice and Punctuation (Conventions)

Unit III: Who Are We? *Organization* – Topics include: Writer’s Workshop: Organization; Literature with Organization; The Organization of a Story; Literary Elements; Vocabulary: Root Trees; Grammar/Conventions: Complete Sentences; Spelling Challenge/ Demon List; Writing: Summary: Concentration on Organization and Sentences (Conventions)

Unit IV: Where Do I Fit In? *Sentence Fluency* – Topics include: Writer’s Workshop: Sentence Fluency; Literature with Fluency; Literary Devices: Flashback, Foreshadowing and Symbolism; Vocabulary: Root Trees; Grammar/Conventions: Verb Tense; Spelling Challenge/ Demon List; Writing: Literary Analysis: Concentration on Sentence Fluency and Verb Tense (Conventions)

Unit V: Can We all Get Along? *Presentation* – Topics include: Writer’s Workshop: Presentation; Literature and Films with Presentation; Compare and Contrast Ideas and Theme through different types of Text; Vocabulary: Root Trees; Grammar/Conventions: Adjectives (Comparative and Superlative); Spelling Challenge/ Demon List; Writing: With and Without Words: Visual Representation and Written Representation (of major literary theme): Concentration on Presentation and Adjectives (Conventions)

Unit VI: How Can I make a Difference? *Word Choice* – Topics include: Writer’s Workshop: Word Choice; Literature with Word Choice; How the Author’s Perspective/Point of View affects Message; Vocabulary: Root Trees; Grammar/Conventions: Apostrophes, Pronouns and Prepositional Phrases; Spelling Challenge/ Demon List; Writing: Persuasive Essay; Concentration on Word Choice and Apostrophes, Pronouns, and Prepositional Phrases (Conventions)

Unit VII: Bringing It All Together – Topics include: Review; Final Exam: Grammar/Conventions, Spelling, Vocabulary, 6+1 Traits of Writing