



# English Language Arts Grade 6

## Course Syllabus

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### Course Description

The program incorporates instruction of both literature and language arts skills. Language Arts instruction is fully integrated throughout the program with instruction and practice with grammar, conventions and writing through Integrated Language Skills Workshops. Listening and Speaking activities are standards-based, providing students with formal and informal opportunities to master key communication skills while strengthening writing, listening, speaking and research skills. Communications Workshops provide opportunities to meet key listening and speaking standards, as well as develop media literacy skills. A Writing Workshop with step-by-step instruction guides students to develop ideas into full-length composition, addressing the key stages in the writing process.

The readings in Prentice Hall Literature comprise the best classic and contemporary literature, representing diverse authors in the context of a rich literary tradition. Informational texts are current, and were selected for their relevance to today's sources and topics. Together, the literary and informational texts provide extensive opportunities for students to deepen their understanding of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The questioning strategies and opportunities that surround the readings further encourage students to cultivate critical thinking. The Critical Thinking questions that appear after selections use appropriate instructional scaffolding to cultivate students' ability to interpret, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and apply their understanding. Post-reading questions help students develop their critical thinking abilities by applying their understanding of literary and reading skills to the literature they have read.

### Textbook

- Prentice Hall Literature: Common Core Edition, Grade 6
- Various novels will be read during the school year:
  - The Miracle Worker by William Gibson
  - Taking Sides by Gary Soto
  - Crash by Jerry Spinelli
  - Tangerine by Edward Bloor



### Materials

- To be prepared for class, you must have:
  - CHARGED CHROMEBOOK EVERY DAY
  - textbook (These are in the classroom)
  - a binder
  - loose-leaf paper
  - pen (blue or black ink)
  - highlighter
  - index cards
  - folder

- Throughout the year, projects may be assigned that would require the use of:
  - poster board
  - glue
  - markers

## Class Rules

- These will be posted and discussed in the first week of school. The basics include respect for yourself and others, punctuality, and being prepared

## Coursework

- There are a variety of activities that students will complete during the year.
  - Notes: Notes are taken throughout the marking period; therefore, a BINDER is required.
  - Class work: Class work is given daily and is due in class the day it is assigned or the following day (as per the instructions)
  - Homework: Homework is given throughout the marking period, and is due the day after it is assigned. A FOLDER to keep homework and class work assignments in is recommended.
  - Tests and Quizzes: Quizzes can be announced or unannounced, and they may cover anything from vocabulary to daily notes. Tests are given at the end of a story, and they are always announced.
  - Group Work: Group assignments will be done in class
  - Projects/Research Paper: 1 major project will be given per marking period; these can be individual or group assignments. A presentation may be required.
  - Participation: All students are expected to participate in class notes, discussions, homework, class work, and other activities. Failure to do so will result in loss of points.
  - Writing Assignments: Students will be writing daily.

## Grading

- Every assignment completed has a point value where larger assignments (i.e. tests, projects) are worth more points. Grades are calculated based on the total number of points gained divided by the total number of points available each marking period. An example will be given in class.
- Grades are entered into Genesis Gradebook as soon as they are graded, and are available for viewing on Genesis Parent Access.
- **If you are absent, is it your responsibility to ask for missed work**, to find it in the file on the table in my classroom or to get it from Google Classroom.
- **Late and missing work not due to an absence**: If your assignment has not been submitted, when grades are posted in Genesis, your assignment will be marked as “missing” and it will receive a zero. At that point, an announcement will be made on Google Classroom: If it is a formative assessment, you will have until the end of the next school day to submit it and it will have 5 points deducted. If it is a summative assessment, you will have until the end of the second school day to submit and it will have 5 points per day deducted. Late work will not be accepted after these deadlines unless you have a valid reason and have approval from me.
- Assignments are posted daily in Google Classroom.
- Categories for assignments:
  - 55% - Summative (Unit tests, research paper/essay, projects)
  - 45% - Formative (quizzes, homework, assignments, participation)