



GRADE

6

**D91 Pathway to the
Common Core Standards
English Language Arts**

In grade six, students will read a range of challenging books, articles, and texts, and will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of the material by answering questions and contributing to class discussions.

In writing, students will continue to work on their use of language, sentence structure, and organization of ideas. They will also be expected to integrate information from different sources and respond to challenging content through written interpretation and analysis.

Activities in these areas will include:

- Providing detailed summaries of texts
- Determining the theme of a text and how it is conveyed
- Describing how a particular story or play unfolds and how characters respond to plot developments
- Using a range of reading strategies to determine the meaning of unknown words as they are used in a text
- Comparing and contrasting various texts, including poems, stories, and historical novels
- Understanding the figurative and connotative (implied) meaning of words and phrases
- Identifying and evaluating specific claims or arguments in a text
- Supporting written claims or arguments with clear reasons and relevant evidence
- Producing clear and coherent writing appropriate to the task, purpose and audience
- Participating in class discussions about various texts and topics
- Conducting short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources

Partnering with your child's teacher

Don't be afraid to reach out to your child's teacher—you are an important part of your child's education. Ask to see a sample of your child's work or bring a sample with you.

Ask the teacher questions like:

- Is my child reading on grade level?
- How is my child doing in writing?
- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
- What can I do at home to make sure that my child is successful?

In grade six, students will read a wide range of literature, including stories, plays, and poems. Additionally, they will read to learn information about history, the world, science, and other areas. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important reading skills across grade levels.

READING LITERATURE

Grade Five Reading

- Students determine the theme of a story, play, or poem from details in the text, including how characters respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic, and summarize the text.
- Students describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.

Grade Six Reading

- Students determine the theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details. Students also provide an objective summary of the text.
- Students explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.

Grade Seven Reading

- Students determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text. Students also provide an objective summary of the text.
- Students analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.

READING FOR INFORMATION

Grade Five Reading

- Students quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
- Students draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.

Grade Six Reading

- Students cite evidence from the text to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Students integrate information presented in different media or formats (such as visually or through numbers) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

Grade Seven Reading

- Students cite several pieces of evidence from the text to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Students compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text, analyzing each medium's portrayal of the subject (such as how the delivery of a speech affects the impact of the words).

Writing tasks in grade six may include stories, essays, reports, and persuasive papers. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important writing skills across grade levels.

Grade Five Writing

- Students introduce a topic clearly, providing a general observation and focus, and develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information.
- Students provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.
- Students group related information logically.
- Students link ideas within and across categories of information using words, phrases, and clauses such as *in contrast* or *especially*.
- Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary.

Grade Six Writing

- Students introduce a topic and develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information.
- Students provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented.
- Students organize ideas, concepts, and information using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect.
- Students use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary.

Grade Seven Writing

- Students introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow, and develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information.
- Students provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.
- Students organize ideas, concepts, and information using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect.
- Students use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

Helping your child on the path to success...

1. Create a literacy rich home by modeling reading and critical thinking.
2. Have your child journal about his/her day in order to practice proper writing skills including grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, complete subjects/ predicates, etc. Have your child read at least one entry a week to you of their choice.
3. Choose a novel that you and your child are interested in. Read the novel and then discuss certain aspects of the book together such as, actions that the main character(s) participate in, decisions that the characters make, emotions, events, etc.
4. Check out the teacher's webpage each week to see what is happening in the classroom and link to activities and resources.
5. Encourage your child to question facts that he/she learns by having them look up information that he/she has questions about. For example, have your child "Google" information that he/she would like to know about, find directions to a new place that the family is traveling to, or look up words that are unknown in conversation or in print. Have your child become familiar with the many resources that available today!
6. Read a book and see the movie. Help your child make comparisons through discussion where he/she can defend opinions and pick out details.
7. Read your child's writing samples, including final drafts and provide feedback.
8. Make time for conversation at home. Discuss current events, shared interests, and future aspirations for education and career.
9. Visit museums, zoos, theaters, historical sites, aquariums, and other educational places to help increase your child's exposure to new knowledge and vocabulary.
10. Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading.

