

Language Arts Grade 6 Syllabus*
2007-2008

Course: Language Arts
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Grading Policy:

No work will be accepted/grades counted for work completed in class where students have knowledge of the answers. Late work will be accepted for any student work not graded in class although points will be deducted for every day it is late.

Points will be deducted as follows:

- 1 day late – 10 points off
- 2 days late – 20 points off
- 3 days late – 30 points off
- 4 days late – a grade of 69 will be given. NOTE that this is a failing grade.

Materials needed: Bring a pen to class every day. I suggest that you carry a “pencil pouch” with you to ensure that writing materials are always available. Your binder and composition book will be kept in the class at all times. You are required to have the following for our class:

- One 1 ½ inch binder with dividers
- One composition notebook
- Your Pony Planner
- One independent novel that you are reading on your own

Course Objectives:

The student will demonstrate a basic understanding of culturally diverse written texts.
The student will apply knowledge of literary elements to understand culturally diverse written texts.

The student will use a variety of strategies to analyze culturally diverse written texts.
The student will apply critical-thinking skills to analyze culturally diverse written texts.

Course philosophy: this course focuses on laying the foundation for Language Arts strategies, through the careful study of quality literature and writing techniques. Throughout the year, this course will ask students to interact with language in a meaningful way, make personal connections between the stories we read and individual experiences, and work collaboratively to establish a positive learning community. Most importantly, this class will require that you engage your mind and have fun; we all learn best when we are involved in something enjoyable, so be prepared to laugh and learn rigorously at the same time.

Brief Overview of Each Six Weeks:

First 6-weeks: Laying the Foundation: Literary Genres
Personal narrative, Review literary elements

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| Second 6-weeks: | Multicultural Literature: Begin reading novel “Esperanza Rising” by Pamela Muñoz Ryan |
| Third 6-weeks: | Persuasive Writing, Christmas play, “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” by Barbara Robinson |
| Fourth 6-weeks: | Research Project – Author Study with presentation |
| Fifth 6-weeks: | TAKS Review, Poetry |
| Sixth 6-weeks: | Letter writing/correspondence, Year wrap-up |

Overview of Ongoing Assignments

1. Binder

Students will keep their binder organized. The binder should contain a section for notes, vocabulary, literature, grammar, and miscellaneous.

2. Library visits

The teacher will escort the students to the library at least once a semester. This will be a time for the students to check out books of interest for silent reading time during class and any time outside of class. Other visits to the library will be to use the computers and to learn about reference materials and research methods.

3. Vocabulary

This part of the binder will include useful words that describe literary elements, unfamiliar words, and unusual words that the student finds. This section will also include prefix, root, suffix study of words and applicable vocabulary words.

4. Journal

This practice allows students to write at will. We will use journal writing as a warm-up activity. I will generally provide a prompt for the students to follow but all students will be encouraged to write more freely when time allows.

5. Grammar Exercises

Students will work on grammar/syntax strategies and activities.

GRADING AND EVALUATION: Student projects, presentations, writing process (multi-draft) papers and other activities will be evaluated using scoring guides or rubrics that target specific objectives. Sometimes the teacher will evaluate students’ work; other times, the students will receive commentary and feedback from other students or will be asked to evaluate his/her own work.

HOMEWORK: Students will have minimal homework. Because of this, I ask that students maintain a Reading Log and notate every minute that they read outside of class.

* All contents of this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the teacher. Interested parties will be notified of any changes in a timely manner.