

**Department:** English  
**Course Name:** Reading 6

**Course Description:**

The primary goal in the sixth-grade reading program is to cultivate a love and appreciation of reading. Independently seeking out thought-provoking books that provide pleasure and inspire imagination can empower students in all aspects of life. Reading opens doors to all that is possible in the world of learning, whether it be learning about oneself or the world. It also nurtures a culture that promotes creative and critical thought. The sixth-grade reading program encourages students to develop life-long reading habits. Students build their reading and speaking vocabularies while engaging with various authors and genres; develop critical thinking skills when analyzing different types of texts; interpret texts through writing and discussion; analyze elements of the short story, novel, play, and poetry; and learn techniques for reading non-fiction materials, all of which will help them to become effective students and sophisticated thinkers. Throughout the year, students choose, read and respond to books independently, thereby enhancing comprehension and enjoyment on their own reading levels.

**Content:**

Vocabulary Study  
Accelerated Reader  
Interpretive Book Discussions/Whole Class and Small Groups  
Written Response to Literature  
Literary Terminology  
Text Annotation  
Civil Rights through Literature  
Mythology through Modern Literature  
Themed Readings (Survival, Coming of Age)  
Literature Circles

**Skills:**

Identify plot elements  
Identify story elements  
Analyze character development  
Comprehend stories using visualization  
Analyze author purpose  
Recognize genre types  
Identify Figurative Language and Literary terminology  
Recognize cause/effect relationships in a text  
Annotate text  
Make connections within and among literary works  
Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of the piece.  
Analyze/evaluate how the structure of a text contributes to its meaning as a whole.  
Demonstrate knowledge of genres of major periods, cultures and eras of literature.  
Respond appropriately to informal class discussion/question answer sessions  
Express an understanding and analysis of literature through oral presentations  
Develop oral presentation skills (posture, volume, pace, articulation, eye contact) for a variety of rhetorical modes  
Use presentation technology  
Articulate and communicate complex ideas through discussion.

**Text and Materials:**

Shostak, Jerome, Vocabulary Workshop Level A (Sadlier-Oxford, 2005)  
Rowling, J.K., Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (Scholastic, Inc. 1997)  
Alexander, Kwame, Black Star (Little Brown Books for Young Readers. 2024)  
O'Dell, Scott, Island of the Blue Dolphin (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1960)  
Rowling, J.K., The Ickabog (Scholastic, 2020)  
Gratz, Alan, Ground Zero (Scholastic, 2021)  
Alexander, Kwame, The Crossover (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014)  
Riordan, Rick, Percy Jackson and the Olympians: Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel (Hyperion, 2005)  
Riordan, Rick, The Lightning Thief (Hyperion, 2010)  
Nielsen, Jennifer, Mark of the Thief (Praetor War), (Scholastic, 2015)  
The Accelerated Reader Computerized Reading Management System  
Various poems and short stories  
Various additional myth and hero stories  
Various picture books

**Methods of Instruction:**

Lecture  
Independent Reading  
Read Aloud/Whole Class Reading  
Modeling  
Literature Circle Grouping  
Interactive Instruction: Discussion, Brainstorming, Debates, Peer Partner Learning  
Independent Word Study  
iPad (various apps)

**Methods of Evaluation:**

Tests/Quizzes  
Projects  
Journals  
Written Response  
Participation (discussion)  
Oral Presentations  
Homework  
Classwork