

Riverside Middle School

6th Grade Language Arts Challenge Syllabus

Teacher: Mrs. Moore

Room: E118

Phone: 355-7945

Email: glmoore@greenville.k12.sc.us

Textbooks:

Kinsella, Kate, et al. Prentice Hall Literature. Boston : Pearson Prentice Hall. 2007.

Various novels including *The Lightning Thief*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Canterbury Tales*, *The Dark Side of Nowhere*, *The Tempest*

Learning and Developmental Goals

But the end of the sixth grade, students will:

1. Draw upon a variety of strategies to comprehend, interpret, analyze, and evaluate what he or she reads.
2. Write for different audiences and purposes.
3. Recognize, demonstrate, and analyze the qualities of effective communication
4. Access and use information from a variety of appropriately selected sources to extend his or her knowledge.

Introduction

The goal of the middle school language arts program is to develop lifelong readers and writers. Students will apply their knowledge and skills and expand their use of language. This course enables students to study the elements of language arts through the study of short stories, nonfiction, drama, poetry, novels, and various writing units. A strong emphasis will be placed on vocabulary development and writing. During this course, the students will utilize listening and speaking skills emphasized in the textbook.

For further information about “Reading/ English Language Arts – Grade 6,” please refer to the web page: <http://ed.sc.gov/>.

Instructional Units and Sequencing: (this schedule is subject to change)

Nine Weeks	Language Arts	Literature
First nine weeks	Standards All About Me Memoir Comparison/Contrast paper-GT Stems lists	Autobiographies <i>Al Capone Does My Shirts- strategies</i> <i>Wizard of Oz/Canterbury Tales- GT</i> Biographies/Wax Museum
Second Nine weeks	Standards Poetry Stems lists	Fantasy <i>Dark Side of Nowhere-all</i>
Third Nine Weeks	Standards Myths, Legends, Folk tales Descriptive writing Stems lists	<i>Lightning Thief-all</i> Drama <i>The Tempest-GT</i>
Fourth Nine Weeks	Research Persuasive writing Stems lists	Independent Novel Study

*** Because our primary goal is to maximize student achievement, material may be added, deleted, and/or substituted at the teacher’s discretion based upon the individual needs, levels, and learning styles of each class. Creative projects, written assignments, and supplemental materials may be included also throughout the year as opportunities arise.

Weekly and Ongoing Assignments

Junior Award Nominees-Students are required to read 3 of the 20 nominees by February.

Starters- Monday through Friday, we will have starters: Standards. Every 2 weeks, starters will be taken up for a grade and take a quiz.

Stems- Stems tests are given every two weeks and each test is cumulative. The stems list is given two weeks prior to each test.

Materials and Resources

Students will need:

*three-ring binder

*pens or pencils

*loose-leaf paper

*note cards

*one subject notebook

*dividers for notebook

*o-ring

Assessing, Evaluating, and Recording Students' Progress

Student grades are determined using the District grading scale, which is posted in the room. Grading is based on the school district weighting system of 50% minor (including but not limited to quizzes, small writing assignments, other class work, and homework), and 50% major (including but not limited to tests, formal writing assignments, etc.). All tests are exhaustively reviewed well in advance, and I am available for special tutoring upon request.

All of my grades are in my grade book and students may know their averages upon request. Tests are usually returned the day after they are taken and are immediately gone over so the students know why they missed what they did and how to correct it. Students are required to keep everything passed out to them or back to them in their language binder.

93-100	A
85-92	B
77-84	C
70-76	D
69 and under	F

Rules and Procedures

Classroom rules are posted on the wall of the classroom. My classroom rules are simple and easy to follow. My classroom rules are:

BE PROMPT.

-Be in your seat before the bell rings.

BE PREPARED.

-Have your materials every day.

-Bring a novel to class every day.

BE POLITE.

-Respect other people and their belongings.

-Respect me.

-Respect yourself.

I reserve the right to be creative in dealing with discipline problems, as the situation warrants. The basic class rules are clearly posted and there should be no confusion in this regard.

Communicating with Parents

Parent contact is made regularly. I respond promptly to all messages from parents. Notes are given to students for a variety of reasons and a log is kept of all parental contact. Parents may contact me through the school or directly through my email address listed at the beginning of this document.