



6TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS Syllabus

Discovery Middle School
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Madison, AL 35758

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Course Description:	Sixth grade Language Arts will continue students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, and reflection. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, vocabulary building, and a continued focus on writing comprise the main elements of reading instruction. The focus for writing instruction will be narrative, informational, and argumentative writing with requirements based on Alabama College and Career Ready standards. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students. Outside reading and summer reading are required.
Course Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utilize active listening skills during discussion and conversation in pairs, small groups, or whole-class settings, following agreed-upon rules for participation.• Use context clues to determine meanings of unfamiliar spoken or written words.• Use digital and electronic tools appropriately, safely, and ethically when researching and writing, both individually and collaboratively. Utilize a writing process to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish writings in various genres.• Assess the formality of occasions in order to speak or write using appropriate language and tone.• Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.
Classroom Expectations:	Classroom Rules and Procedures: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Have a positive attitude.2. Be responsible.3. Be respectful to others and their opinions.4. Set high expectations for yourself.5. Follow all school rules.
Textbook:	<i>Studysync</i> , unit novels

<p>Grading:</p>	<p>Test grades will account for 60% of the 9-weeks grade, with the remaining 40% being determined by quiz/daily grades. The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (65-69), and F (below 65). Grades will be a reflection of mastery of the standards. Make sure all absences are excused as work can be made up and graded for excused absences only.</p>
<p>Make-up Work:</p>	<p>Under normal circumstances, it is expected that students will submit <u>previously</u> assigned work upon return to school after an excused absence. All work missed on the day(s) of excused absences must be made up within a timeframe determined by the teacher. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure he or she makes up work following excused absences. Students will not receive credit for and will not be allowed to make up any assignments, tests, work, activities, etc., missed during unexcused absences. (DMS 2022-2023 Student Handbook)</p>
<p>Late Work:</p>	<p>For work turned in late, the following policy will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assignment will drop one LETTER grade for each school day that passes. For example, if an assignment is turned in one school day late, the highest a student can receive is 89%; two days late, 79%, etc. <p>1 day late = maximum credit 89% 2 days late = maximum credit 79% 3 days late = maximum credit 69% 4 days late = maximum credit 59% 5-10 days late = maximum credit 50%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half credit is always better than no credit! Until work has been made up, "Missing" (which counts as a zero) will be put in the grade book. This will be updated once work is completed and turned in.
<p>Accommodations:</p>	<p>Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.</p>
<p>Turnitin Notice:</p>	<p>The majority of writing assignments in this course will be submitted to Turnitin via the Schoology learning platform. The primary focus of this software is to help students become better writers and scholars. Turnitin generates a report on the originality of student writing by comparing it with a database of periodicals, books, online content, student papers, and other published work. This program will help students discern when they are using sources fairly, citing properly, and paraphrasing effectively - skills essential to all academic work.</p>

	Students will have the opportunity to review their Turnitin originality report and will have the opportunity to make revisions before submitting their work for grading. Once their work is submitted, teachers have the opportunity to view the student's originality report and grade accordingly.
Technology	Concerning laptop utilization: 1. Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. 2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. 3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. 4. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.
Materials and Supplies:	Composition notebook, folder with pockets, and pencils

36 Week Plan *Subject to Change Grammar and Vocabulary Weekly	
Week	Unit
1 8/3	Classroom Procedures and Student Handbook. Summer Reading Collaboration (<i>Restart</i> by Gordon Korman)
2 8/8	Summer Reading Collaboration (<i>Restart</i> by Gordon Korman)
3 8/15	Summer Reading Collaboration (<i>Restart</i> by Gordon Korman)
4	Novel Unit and Elements of Plot

8/22	
5 8/29	Novel Unit and Elements of Plot
6 9/5	Novel Unit, Research, and Informative Writing
7 9/12	Novel Unit, Research, and Informative Writing
8 9/26	Novel Unit and Text Structure
9 10/10	Short Stories, Poetry, and Narrative Writing
10 10/17	Short Stories, Poetry, and Narrative Writing
11 10/24	Short Stories, Poetry, and Narrative Writing
12 10/31	Short Stories, Poetry, and Narrative Writing
13 11/7	Novel Unit and Text Structure
14 11/14	Novel Unit and Text Structure
15 11/28	Novel Unit and Text Structure
16 12/5	Novel Unit and Text Structure
17 12/12	Mid-Term Exams
18 1/4	Novel Unit and Argumentative Writing
19 1/9	Novel Unit and Argumentative Writing

20 1/17	Novel Unit and Argumentative Writing
21 1/23	Novel Unit and Argumentative Writing
22 1/30	Novel Unit and Argumentative Writing
23 2/6	Novel Unit and Argumentative Writing
24 2/13	Memoirs and Narrative w/descriptive details Writing
25 2/21	Memoirs and Narrative w/descriptive details Writing
26 2/27	Memoirs and Narrative w/descriptive details Writing
27 3/6	Memoirs and Narrative w/descriptive details Writing
28 3/20	Poetry
29 3/27	Poetry
30 4/3	Poetry and Research
31 4/10	Poetry and Research
32 4/17	Novel Unit and Argumentative Writing
33 4/24	Novel Unit and Argumentative Writing
34 5/1	Novel Unit and Argumentative Writing
35	Novel Unit and Argumentative Writing

5/8	
36 5/15	Novel Unit and Argumentative Writing
37 5/22	Final Exams