

ELA 6 Course Overview

Unit	Major Concepts	Skills	Summative Assessments
Reading:			
Introduction to ELA	<p>The best reading experiences come from selecting the right kind of book</p> <p>Knowing the vocabulary is essential to reading comprehension</p> <p>Reading is a social experience to share through discussion and writing</p> <p>Writing is a process that includes planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing.</p> <p>Good grammar and mechanics help writers communicate their ideas clearly.</p>	<p>Select “just right” books with independence</p> <p>Maintain and analyze reading records on - volume - frequency - rate</p> <p>Respond to text through discussion and written retell</p> <p>Learn and use academic vocabulary to describe words and their meanings.</p> <p>Identify, look up, and infer word meanings</p> <p>Synthesize and summarize plot in spoken and written retells</p> <p>Read closely with vocabulary awareness.</p>	<p>Baseline test of reading comprehension</p> <p>Conclusions drawn from reading records</p> <p>Digital personal vocabulary/spelling notebook</p> <p>One-paragraph story retell.</p> <p>Student documentation of reading and work habits.</p>
Fairy Tales and Fantasy	<p>Fairy tales are a distinct genre and we have specific expectations of what we will find when we read one.</p> <p>“Every storyteller writes in a way that communicates a message. Part of our role as readers is to figure out what that message is.”</p> <p>Retold fairy tales show the message in the differences between the original story and the retelling.</p> <p>Traditional fairy tales expose us to rich vocabulary that will prepare us for difficult</p>	<p>Understand characteristics of a fairy tale and apply them to identify new and unfamiliar stories in the genre.</p> <p>Learn and apply terms for literary elements to fairy tales.</p> <p>Recognize unfamiliar words and word patterns in reading, and infer meaning.</p> <p>Identify themes as messages about life that the author wants readers to learn and follow.</p> <p>Explain how themes reflect the concerns of the time or culture in which a fairy tale originates.</p>	<p>Analysis of themes comparing a Grimm's fairy tale with a retold version.</p>

ELA 6 Course Overview

	<p>reads later. It will also help us to express ourselves with fluency, specificity and clarity.</p>	<p>Compare and contrast a traditional fairy tale with a retold fairy tale to identify themes.</p> <p>Support conclusions about themes with specific text evidence.</p> <p>Apply reading skills learned through short fairy tale reads to novels to determine whether they are fairy tales, identify themes using one or more strategies, and support conclusions using text evidence.</p>	
<p>Multigenre Study: Overcoming Obstacles (<i>The Miracle Worker</i> and <i>El Deafo</i>)</p>	<p>Obstacles and challenges can arise at any stage of life. There are many strategies to overcome and embrace them.</p> <p>Technology is a tool and, as such, only proves useful when used skillfully</p> <p>Kindness carries us through life</p> <p>Reading/performing/watching a play is a social experience</p> <p>Performing (reading) a play is meant to be done with enthusiasm and enunciation</p> <p>Reading a graphic novel is a particular reading skill set that requires both visual and written knowledge, ordering, and piecing together ideas to “read between the lines”/make inferences</p>	<p>Understand characteristics of various genres and apply them to identify author’s choices and craft style.</p> <p>Recognize unfamiliar words and word patterns in reading, and infer meaning.</p> <p>Identify themes as messages about life that the author wants readers to learn and follow.</p> <p>Explain how themes and experiences can carry throughout various time periods and situations</p>	<p>Graphic (comic strip) note taking strategy</p> <p>Write an original short story encompassing a shared theme from the two main class texts (also summative for writing unit)</p> <p>Literary essay analyzing an independently identified theme (also summative for writing unit)</p>

<p>Investigating Character and Structure (<i>Freak the Mighty</i> and Free Choice Series Reading)</p>	<p>All novels follow a predictable structure and contain common literary elements</p> <p>Authors make meaningful choices about language and structure when they write -narrator -tone/mood -plot line -pacing -description vs. dialogue</p> <p>Authors craft fictional characters carefully through -description -dialogue -actions -reactions of other characters</p> <p>Characters grow and change as a result of the conflicts they experience</p> <p>The lessons fictional characters learn point to themes the author intends for us</p> <p>Readers need specific vocabulary to describe character traits</p>	<p>Read closely for characterization: -traits -feelings -relationships</p> <p>Read closely for author's use of language and organization</p> <p>Infer character traits and apply specific trait vocabulary in discussion and writing</p> <p>Develop new understandings about text based on patterns identified through close reading</p> <p>Read closely to identify themes and hold discussions to develop these ideas</p> <p>Synthesize and develop theories about meaning across multiple texts -books in a series -books with similar themes -texts from different genres</p>	<p>Digital personal vocabulary/spelling notebook</p> <p>Digital notebooks for close reading -story map -character trait investigation -reading reflection</p> <p>"Meet the Protagonist" dramatic reading and presentation</p> <p>Graphic retell "comic strip"</p> <p>Characterization essay (also summative for writing unit)</p> <p>Cross textual/genre comparison essay</p>
<p>Other Worlds, Other Cultures</p>	<p>Authors use setting to create different types of conflicts and catalysts for character growth</p>	<p>Manage reading with a small group or partner</p>	<p>Digital notebook for close reading: -setting investigation</p>

ELA 6 Course Overview

<p>(Historical and Realistic Fiction)</p>	<p>Setting includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - place and time - cultural norms - historic events like wars and natural disasters - activities of daily living that may differ from our own - mood <p>Authors use historical settings to explore current issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ethical concerns - views of the world - theories about power 	<p>Read closely to understand the “world of the story”</p> <p>Extend understanding of complex setting details through small group discussion</p> <p>Read closely for power shifts in the story and develop theories about themes they suggest</p> <p>Build internet research skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - keyword search - effective search engines - online encyclopedia <p>Build written response skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - restate questions in answers - support answers with evidence - develop detail with sensory details <p>Build discussion skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -reflective listening -add to ideas -extend through questions -invite participation 	<p>-”aha” moments</p> <p>-power shifts</p> <p>Google Slides presentation of mini-research project on real-world historical details behind setting elements</p> <p>Essay test on literary elements: character, setting, conflict, and theme</p> <p>Socratic seminar on how an outsider becomes an insider</p>
<p>Read All About It (Expository and Persuasive Nonfiction)</p>	<p>Nonfiction reading differs from fiction reading - slower rate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - read to learn details - organizational structure of assertions and evidence - reading text features - understanding every word on the page -recognizing gaps in background knowledge <p>Persuasive texts require a critical stance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -do authors/experts have potential biases? -is the evidence presented representative of all cases? -what is the source of the data? 	<p>Distinguish between what I think I know from what the text says</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -what surprised me? -what is something new that I learned? -what made me change my thinking? <p>Understand text structure in expository nonfiction - topic vs. thesis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - main idea - supporting details <p>Recognize types of evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quotes - anecdotes/historical anecdotes - numbers and statistics - charts, graphs, images 	<p>Digital notebook for close reading -text structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -vocabulary -points of confusion -points that surprise -reflections on text <p>Debate on an issue encountered in reading (e.g., gun control, immigration laws)</p>

ELA 6 Course Overview

<p>Read to Research and Learn: Who Gets to Be an American?</p>	<p>Reading to develop expertise in a subject requires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an inquisitive stance - openness to new findings and ideas - strong comprehension skills - dialogue with other learners - subject specific vocabulary 	<p>Ask questions to guide research and reading</p> <p>Apply search strategies to locate credible information on the internet</p> <p>Read sources critically</p> <p>Apply expository nonfiction close reading strategies to book-length texts</p> <p>Use strategies to take notes that capture ideas and avoid plagiarism</p> <p>Reconcile conflicting information from different sources</p> <p>Read closely to synthesize information from multiple sources</p> <p>Synthesize details to draw conclusions about the topic</p> <p>Hold collegial, topic-specific discussions on</p> <p>Use subject-specific vocabulary in conversation and writing</p>	<p>Digital research notes and article summaries</p> <p>Socratic seminar: students contribute points from research reading to answer the question, Should we be more open or more closed to immigration?</p> <p>Research-based opinion paper (also summative for writing unit)</p>
<p>Searching for the Perfect World</p>	<p>Settings create conflict in dystopian literature</p> <p>Authors craft settings to suggest themes about our own worlds</p>	<p>Read closely for author's use of language and text structure</p> <p>Read closely to understand the "world of the story"</p> <p>Read closely for repeated information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -images -objects -ideas 	<p>Digital notebook for close reading</p> <p>Travel brochure for the world of the story</p> <p>Keep out sign for the world of the story</p>

ELA 6 Course Overview

		Synthesize details from close reading to develop new understanding of themes and symbols in dystopian novels	
Writing:			
Fairy Tale	Fairy tales contain specific types of characters and story features that place them within the fantasy genre.	Use a “graphic organizer” (Venn Diagram) as a pre-writing planning tool Use multiple texts to establish and prove an idea Refer to both texts and transition between ideas in a writing piece	Venn Diagram as a comparison tool Analysis of themes comparing a Grimm’s fairy tale with a retold version- 2 paragraphs
Multigenre Study: Overcoming Obstacles (<i>The Miracle Worker</i> and <i>El Deafo</i>)	The best stories include - characters with depth - meaningful conflicts - enough detail to understand the action completely - themes that resonate - showing writing, not telling writing - conventions that help the reader navigate the action A theme or concept can be found across multiple genres and making connections to theme acts as a bridge between texts	Establish a narrative voice Establish setting Create a conflict from which the character learns something of value Write a three- to four-page short story that follows the “plot mountain” structure and includes a theme Apply appropriate story conventions - paragraph breaks - dialogue punctuation (beginning) -pronoun clarity and agreement -verb tense consistency -capitalization rules Apply criteria for the Ideas, Organization, Word Choice, and Conventions traits to evaluate and revise writing. Use peer review and self-evaluation processes to set goals and improve writing	Digital writer’s notebook of story elements that explore -characterization -setting development -dialogue -conflict Final draft: short story with shared theme from multiple texts

Book Review	<p>Writing has an audience and a purpose.</p> <p>The writing process consists of five steps: planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing.</p> <p>Writing is easier when your topic is something that matters.</p>	<p>Follow classroom writing procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - writing process - use of technology - file management <p>Understand and follow the format for a book review.</p> <p>Establish the audience and purpose for the book review</p>	Final draft book review
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ELA 6 Course Overview

	The book review is a genre of writing that has common characteristics	<p>Plan and draft a three-paragraph piece</p> <p>Apply a rubric with criteria for the elements of a book review to evaluate and revise writing.</p> <p>Publish a piece to be proud of</p>	
Literary Analysis Essay:	<p>Writing projects can allow student choice or require specific, timed responses</p> <p>Effective planning is the key to successful writing under pressure</p> <p>The five-paragraph essay is a standard form</p> <p>Essay prompts offer guidance about how to write an essay</p>	<p>Analyze a writing prompt for clues to formulate a response that includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -character analysis -plot retell -theme analysis <p>Use the five-paragraph format to plan and draft - introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - three body paragraphs - conclusion <p>Use details from reading to support ideas Use the writing process</p> <p>Write within a time limit</p> <p>Use technological tools to gather feedback and improve writing</p> <p>Understand personal spelling challenges and develop individualized spelling improvement</p>	<p>Final draft essay on a novel-length fairy tale or fantasy</p> <p>Optional essay: book vs. film analysis</p>

		plan	
Memoir	A memoir shares a true event from your own life and through which you learn an important lesson -- but the truth is often "improved."	<p>Apply story writing skills to create a personal narrative</p> <p>Use mind maps and double entry journals to experiment with writing ideas</p> <p>Create an emotional landscape</p> <p>Use plot mountain structure</p>	Final draft memoir

ELA 6 Course Overview

		<p>Slow down the pacing to create emphasis at the moment of climax</p> <p>Eliminate gaps in the plot while controlling story length</p> <p>Apply all conventions of writing learned to date Eliminate sentence fragments from writing Use teacher conferences to improve writing</p>	
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<p>Writing on Demand</p>	<p>Writing a five-paragraph essay in response to a prompt requires careful planning and meticulous self-editing.</p> <p>A variety of brainstorming and planning strategies can help when the topic is difficult to approach.</p>	<p>Select brainstorming and planning strategies that fit the writing prompt</p> <p>Use strategies to develop appealing introductions and satisfying conclusions</p> <p>Apply techniques for adding depth to writing - explain the 5W's - describe using the five senses - share an anecdote</p> <p>Use transition words and phrases to smooth the jumps between ideas and paragraphs.</p> <p>Eliminate repeated words and phrases using precise nouns and modifiers and vivid verbs.</p> <p>Apply comma rules for items in a series and compound sentences</p> <p>Use technology to locate and repair errors.</p>	<p>One essay chosen from three written on WPP Online'</p>
<p>Research Paper (Option to include opinion)</p>	<p>The research paper is a formal, extended form of the five-paragraph essay.</p> <p>Some elements of the research paper follow rigidly prescribed formats.</p> <p>Writers need to take special care to avoid plagiarism in research writing.</p>	<p>Paraphrase notes from reading to develop content for writing</p> <p>Organize information by topic and source</p> <p>Plan writing using graphic organizers and/or outlines</p>	<p>Final draft research paper</p>

ELA 6 Course Overview

		<p>Synthesize information and write a thesis statement to summarize research findings</p> <p>Support thesis statement with relevant details</p> <p>Sequence ideas in chronological order or another order that makes sense</p> <p>Cite sources using a modified MLA format Use and maintain a formal tone</p> <p>Apply comma and capitalization rules</p>	
Grammar and Mechanics:			

ELA 6 Course Overview

<p>Optional Unit: Spelling Rules</p>	<p>Correct -- or incorrect -- spelling makes a strong first impression.</p>	<p>Selected spelling rules: Horrible homophones Forming plurals from words ending in -y. Forming possessives Doubling consonants before adding suffixes. Words with -ie/-ei patterns.</p>	<p>Digital personal spelling notebook Spelling in final draft writing</p>
<p>Nouns and Pronouns</p>	<p>Using nouns and pronouns well can improve the quality of writing.</p>	<p>Identify parts of speech in context. Identify and create correct plural and possessive forms for nouns Understand and maintain pronoun clarity and agreement Understand and maintain consistent verb tense</p>	<p>Written test Writing projects</p>

ELA 6 Course Overview

<p>Sentence Structure and Comma Use</p>	<p>Understanding and writing with different types of sentences will make your writing more interesting to read.</p> <p>Punctuation acts as a guide to readers, making your writing easier to understand.</p>	<p>Identify subject and predicate.</p> <p>Identify complete sentences and sentence fragments.</p> <p>Repair sentence fragments.</p> <p>Identify types of sentences and common errors. Repair incorrect and incomplete sentences. Use correct end punctuation</p> <p>Apply selected comma rules to writing</p>	<p>Written test</p> <p>Writing projects</p>
<p>Capitalization</p>	<p>Conventions of capitalization help your reader understand your writing</p>	<p>Identify types of proper nouns</p> <p>Apply selected capitalization rules to writing</p>	<p>Written test</p> <p>Writing projects</p>
<p>Vocabulary:</p>			
	<p>Learning new words can be accomplished independently and through formal instruction.</p> <p>An extensive vocabulary enhances the ability to communicate precisely and effectively.</p> <p>Reading and responding to test questions are skills to learn and develop</p> <p>Learning the meanings of roots and affixes can expand your understanding of vocabulary and spelling.</p>	<p>Recognize unfamiliar vocabulary in daily reading.</p> <p>Use a dictionary and thesaurus in print or electronic format.</p> <p>Infer the meanings of new words in context</p> <p>Identify synonyms and antonyms vocabulary words from assigned lists and independent reading.</p> <p>Understand the multiple meanings of new words words in context.</p> <p>Use new words words in ways that demonstrate understanding of their meanings.</p> <p>Apply knowledge of affixes and roots to extend vocabulary</p> <p>Understand and apply word relationships to solve analogies.</p>	<p>Digital personal vocabulary notebook</p> <p>Periodic written quizzes</p> <p>“Word Up” vocabulary challenges</p>

ELA 6 Course Overview

		<p>Understand and apply strategies for taking multiple choice tests.</p> <p>Understand and apply analytical tools to evaluate and improve test performance.</p>	
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