

SIXTH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

CORE CURRICULUM GUIDE FOR PARENTS

In addition to the skills listed below, family literacy includes shared conversation at home, daily family reading, modeling of good listening and writing activities, and frequent visits to the library.

6

ORAL LANGUAGE

- Know the reason for listening, such as to follow directions, get information, or be entertained.
- Show comprehension by following multiple-step directions, clarifying information, giving an opinion, understanding both verbal/nonverbal messages, emotion, and knowing the purpose for listening.
- Speak clearly, in complete and extended sentences, with expression, tone, and subject/verb agreement.
- Know the purpose for viewing media, identify main ideas, determine bias, and separate fact, fiction, fantasy.
- Use a variety of formats when presenting stories and reports, and participating in dramatic activities.

SPELLING

- Use word families, common patterns, some Greek/Latin roots to spell increasing numbers of new words.
- Correctly spell words with roots, prefixes, suffixes, and other word parts (*paragraph, beautiful, whether*).
- Learn spelling of more difficult words, especially those in subject matter, such as *regional, Europe, Asia*.
- Apply what is already known to spell new words, and visualize words to help you remember the spelling.

VOCABULARY

- Use new vocabulary learned by listening, reading, and talking with others about many topics.
- Learn the meaning of and use a variety of grade-level words from stories, art, science, and other subjects.
- Use dictionaries, glossaries, and other sources to determine the meaning of new words.
- Determine levels of meaning between related words such as *nation, national, international*.
- Identify the meaning of new words using root words and affixes, like *planetarium, spectacular, global*.
- Think of clues in words, sentences, and paragraphs to learn meaning of key words, words with similar meanings (*tools/instruments*), expressions such as “*Cut it out!*” or “*feeling blue*,” and some proverbs such as “*A stitch in time saves nine...*” or “*An apple a day keeps the doctor away.*”
- Use context to determine meaning and pronunciation of synonyms, antonyms, homonyms (*threw/through*), and multiple-meaning word such as *figure, object, table, produce*, and other grade level words.

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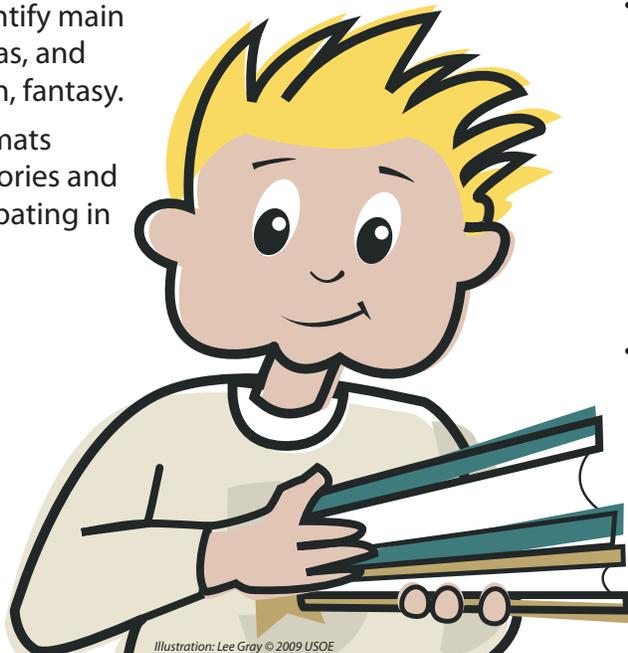


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COMPREHENSION

- Identify the purpose of reading text and think of what the author wants the reader to learn.
- Use what is known to connect the new information to oneself, another book, or to the world.
- Ask yourself questions about what is read and make predictions about what may be coming next.
- Locate facts and think about details to understand the main ideas in information text.
- Summarize in your own words important ideas/events with details about what you are reading.
- Identify characters, setting, and sequence of events in stories, including problem/solution ideas.
- Know what information is given in diagrams, table of contents, glossaries, charts and other features.
- Recognize different structures in text help comprehension, such as cause/effect, comparison/contrast.
- Enjoy a variety of reading such as fairy tales, fiction, poetry, newspapers, magazines, and other sources.

WRITING

- Think of ideas to write about from reading and other experiences, select a topic, and decide on your audience.
- List some important words/ideas about the topic and write a draft copy. (That means one to be improved!)
- Read what you wrote, change it to make your writing better understood, and rewrite it with corrections.
- Use strong verbs, interesting language, and strong endings that state your opinion or convey your message well.
- Write text for different purposes, such as stories, letters, reports, journals, poetry, etc.
- Share your writing with family, friends, and others, using illustrations if needed, then publish your work.

FLUENCY

- Read grade-level text at a rate of approximately 120–150 words per minute with 95–100 percent accuracy.
- Read grade-level stories in meaningful phrases, using expression and punctuation.
- Read a greater amount of subject matter text with automaticity and understanding.