

Grade 6
Unit 1: Nonfiction – Newspapers and Magazines

Major Skills

Structural features of newspapers/magazines
Parts of a newspaper
5 W's
Pyramid news structure
Summarizing/paraphrasing
Headlines
Primary/secondary sources, credibility of information
Strong verbs/leads
Newspaper roles/group work
Writing process (prewriting to publishing)
Vocabulary (roots, multiple word meanings, context)
Proofreading
Criteria for evaluation of a newspaper
Literal/inferential responses in comic strips, cartoons,
and speeches
Sequence, summarizing/paraphrasing
Implied main idea
Inferences/conclusions
Fact/opinion/probability

Culminating Products or Performance Tasks

News article
Class newspaper

Other Products or Performance Tasks

Group Poster
Text structure list
Graphic organizers
Oral presentation
Outline
Headline/Lead paragraph
Poster or PowerPoint
Newspaper survey
Interview questions
Production flowchart

Ongoing Tasks

Journal responses
Vocabulary log
Independent reading and responses

Grammar/Usage mini-lessons

Grade 6

Unit 2: Fiction – Realistic Fiction

Major Skills

Story elements, including theme
Predictions
Literal/figurative language
Elements of realistic fiction
Author's style/techniques
Leads/transitional words/sentence variety
Foreshadowing/flashback
Dialogue revealing character
Common capitalization/punctuation/usage errors
Vocabulary (context, idioms)
QAR and inferences
Proofreading skills
Inferences/conclusions
Writing process (prewriting to publishing)
Writing (organization, varied sentence structure, transitions, elaboration)
Punctuation (comma/coordinating conjunction to separate Independent clauses in compound sentences)
Possessive forms of singular and plural nouns/pronouns

Culminating Products or Performance Tasks

Narrative story

Other Products or Performance Tasks

Character map/story map
Character map
Summary
Oral presentation
Proofreading checklist
Revision checklist

Ongoing Tasks

Journal responses
Vocabulary log
Independent reading and responses
Grammar/Usage mini-lessons

Grade 6

Unit 3: Historical Fiction

Major Skills

Elements of historical fiction
Criteria for good historical fiction
Fact vs. fiction
Author's purpose
Story elements, including setting as an influence on characterization and plot
Connections to real life
Citations and crediting sources
1st person point of view
Writing Process (prewriting and drafting)
Writing (transitions, organization, word choice)
Vocabulary (idioms, multiple word meanings, context clues)
Cultural characteristics found in literature
Elements of lyric/narrative poetry
Implied main idea
Inferences/conclusions

Punctuation (hyphen to separate syllables and compound adjectives)

Culminating Products or Performance Tasks

Timeline
Bibliography
Found poem
Free verse poem

Other Products or Performance Tasks

Graphic organizers
Summary
Biographical sketch
Comparison of informational nonfiction and historical fiction

Plot outline
Character web
List of informational books/historical fiction titles

Ongoing Tasks

Journal responses
Vocabulary log
Independent reading and responses
Grammar/Usage mini-lessons

Grade 6 Unit 4: Myths

Major Skills

Elements and characteristics of myths
Time/setting
Characters/themes
Hero/heroic traits
Cultural contexts of myths
Evaluation of characters/events
Drawing conclusions
Real-life connections
Vocabulary (etymologies, Greek/Latin roots)
Bookmarking web sites
Narrative and lyric poems

Story elements (characterization/conflict and resolutions)
Literary devices (foreshadowing, flashback, imagery)
Writing (leads, transitions, dialogue, word choice, tone, varied sentence structure)
Reader's theatre performance (voice, emphasis, diction, enunciation, inflection)
Elements of lyric and narrative poetry
Double negatives
Superlative/comparative adjectives

Culminating Products or Performance Tasks

Paragraph on themes
Heroic poem
Narrative myth
Reader's theatre performance

Other Products or Performance Tasks

Elements list (ongoing)
Flash cards
Story planner graphic organizer

Ongoing Tasks

Journal responses
Vocabulary log
Independent reading and responses
Grammar/Usage mini-lessons

Grade 6
Unit 5: Poetry

Major Skills

Elements of poetry
Forms of poetry
Poetic terms
Vocabulary (context clues, idioms, multiple word meanings)
Similes/metaphors
Analogies
Onomatopoeia/alliteration/personification/hyperbole
Strong nouns, verbs, adjectives
Poetry line breaks
Foreshadowing/flashback
Imagery
Point of view
Nature poems/sensory words
Writing process (prewriting to publishing)
Speaking skills (diction/enunciation/syntax/pronunciation, volume, inflection)
Active listening skills
Homophones
Hyphens
Interjections

Culminating Products or Performance Tasks

Poetry booklet
Oral reading

Other Products or Performance Tasks

Class word wall
Comparison poem
Self-portrait poem
Repetition/refrain poem
Onomatopoeia poem
Personification poem
Idiom/hyperbole poem
Response journals to poetry
Nature poem

Ongoing Tasks

Journal responses
Vocabulary log
Independent reading and responses
Grammar/Usage mini-lessons

Grade 6

Unit 6: Drama

Major Skills

Elements of drama
Format/structure of play/teleplay
Main idea of scenes
Using voice to convey meaning
Author's techniques
Point of view
Summarizing
Real-life connections
Teleplay elements (tension, movement/stillness, sound/silence, light/darkness)
Punctuating dialogue
Invitations
Critiquing a video
Grammar (correct use of possessive pronouns, regular/irregular verbs, prepositional phrases)

Culminating Products or Performance Tasks

Small group teleplay
Videotaped performance of group teleplays
Student-created rubrics for evaluation of storyline organizers, scripts, and performances

Other Products or Performance Tasks

Compare/contrast graphic organizer
Class word wall
Group work/practice of a scene
Comparison of short story and dramatic script

Ongoing Tasks

Journal responses
Vocabulary log
Independent reading and responses
Grammar/Usage mini-lessons