

6th Grade Reading Syllabus
First Quarter

Literature

Content	Process	Product
Summer Reading & Great Books 2 -3 weeks	>analyze context of setting and it's effect on plot >read to derive theme >grow characters >expand research strategies to unlock meaning of words and other worlds	>Assessment of good reader qualities through written work, discussion, and one-on-one conferencing >Silverwing graphic novel project >Sharing/reading of recently read award-winning books
World Folktales – traditional literature 2 weeks Overlapping prior and next units	>chart motifs, themes, stylistic devices >interpret cultural values	>Discussions and written assignments to compare and contrast using our charts >retelling of tales >museum project
Books on the Theme of Survival 3 weeks	>analyze the elements of plot in several books with different settings but a common theme >note important details >articulate understanding of story elements in writing and discussion >expand research strategies to further understanding of setting	>Small group discussions, planning and goal setting >Thorough completion of comprehension questions >Survival Jeopardy >Optional creative products
World Historical Fiction 4 weeks	>analyze one book deeply for plot, setting, and theme as has been developing throughout this quarter >observe by note-taking and discussion how award-winning authors develop characters	>Discussions >Study Guide >Essay >Creative project

Poetry

Throughout the sixth grade year, students will:

- > review poetic devices
- > become acquainted with more poets
- > continue accumulating poems in their personal poetry folder
- > develop declaiming skills
- > engage in various word play games and activities
- > write poetry based on models and various patterns/submit entries to poetry contests
- > cultivate a reflective habit

Nonfiction – first quarter goals

- >Review research and library skills through ongoing connections to reading units. Focus: atlas, Timetables in History and other specialized historical reference tools.
- >Read various nonfiction formats including Time for Kids and other periodicals, reference books, and library books.
- >Cultivate an inquisitive mind and reflective journal writing.

Assessment

In the 6th grade the following habits and skills are expected before the transition to Junior High:

- > Prepared for class – library books and Junior Great Books must always be brought to class
- >Independent goal setting and taking charge of own learning: Timely completion of contracts, keeping contracts behind the reading tab, referring to the reading contract throughout the unit, and turning in the contract at the unit's end.
- >Proficiency in each of the "Qualities of a Good Reader"
- >Expository paragraphs display time, thought, effort, and attentiveness to proper mechanics and spelling.
Students should spend 30 minutes on written assignments. At this level they should spend time considering the best examples and working out the most thorough and logical way of organizing their explanation in a cohesive paragraph. Development of this writing/thinking skill is a prime objective for the year. NOTE: If students do not finish in 30 minutes, they may stop and a parent can sign the homework notebook.

Communication

- >jackson@birchwoodschool.org I check this a few times a day.
- >Send a note to class or call the office requesting me to return your call.