

6th Grade Accelerated Critics of Language Course Syllabus

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Course Overview:

Your child will have an advanced and accelerated experience with both reading and writing in the magnet program. This class will develop student critical reading skills by giving students opportunity to engage with, discuss, and write about compelling novels, short stories, and poetry.

Essential Question: 6th Grade: Why is it human to search for understanding?

1st Quarter-Reading

Essential Question: How have humans come to understand their origins?

- Class Novel- Tangerine
 1. Reader's Workshop
- Independent novel of choice
 1. Independent Project- Scrapbook or Survival guide
- Vocabulary
- Poetry/ Short Stories

2nd Quarter- Reading

Essential Question: What are the roles of systems in human understanding?

- Class Novel- Watership Down
 1. Reader's Workshop
- Independent novel of choice
 1. Independent Project- Write fan fiction
- Vocabulary
- Poetry/ Short Stories

3rd & 4th Quarter-Reading

Essential Question: How are humans impacted by conflict, and how do they continuously seek resolution?

- Class Novel – Sophie's World
 1. Reader's workshop
- Independent novel of choice (2- 1 per quarter)
 1. Independent Project s- Write a comic strip, graphic novel, or children's story; give a book talk
- Vocabulary
- Poetry/ Short Stories

Class Reading:

Each quarter, students will explore various types of literature, fiction and non-fiction. The books were selected by Magnet English teachers to challenge traditionally strong readers through advanced text requiring greater complexity, depth of thinking and creativity. The assigned books are the books we will read together; I don't offer alternative titles. I encourage parents to read the books along with their children to share in what the students are learning and discussing at school.

Individual Reading:

It is important for well-educated young adults to enjoy reading. To foster this ideal, each student will be responsible for independent reading while experiencing different genres and responding to books in different ways. Students will typically be responsible for one independent reading project per quarter.

- I have started a class library of books for our accelerated students. If you have some books that are age and level appropriate that are collecting dust at home, please consider donating to the class library so that others may enjoy the books. Thank you!

Interdisciplinary Units:

Each quarter, students will engage in English/Language Arts projects that will feed into their PBLs. (PBL- Project Based Learning Units)

Required Materials:

- pencil
- 1 composition book (reader's notebook)

Reading Grading Policy	
Assessments/Projects	50%
Reading Process	35%
Class Participation	15%

To be successful in this class, you must not only complete all of your work, but you must also engage in the process. Those that do their work and engage in the content will have earned a grade reflecting a job well done. My job is to help you be successful. I will be happy to help any student who needs extra help and/or time to finish all of his or her work. I can schedule mutually agreeable times to help you with whatever you need to be successful.

Late Work Policy: *Reviewed in Advisory*- late work is accepted for partial credit for approximately one week; acceptances of late work beyond that time is at the discretion of the teacher related to student/teacher communication.

Homework: Students will be expected to read independently at home for their class novel and independent novel; additionally, they may work on a portfolio essay though most students will finish all expected writing in class (rough or final draft); an average day of homework is approximately 30 minutes **every** night.