



LANGUAGE ARTS

6

FOR FAMILIES

SIXTH GRADE

What to expect:

Children in sixth grade will read a variety of more challenging texts of different types (books, journals and scripts, for example). At this age, students are able to understand how authors support their ideas. They can study the structures of sentences and paragraphs to determine how they help develop a piece of writing. Sixth-grade students can provide evidence including facts, examples and details to support their ideas and opinions. Their vocabulary is also expanding. This information is a snapshot of learning in English language arts (ELA) for Grade 6. For a complete set of ELA academic standards, [click here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- State their ideas clearly in spoken presentations and in writing.
- Understand different text structures, such as description, compare/contrast, sequential, problem/solution and cause/effect.
- Include important points and details when summarizing a piece of writing.
- Edit and revise first drafts to create clear, organized writing, using appropriate punctuation, capitalization and grammar.
- Describe how setting, plot and theme (the central meaning of the text) support the author's work.
- Create essays and reports on a topic, including key details, facts and information.
- Support their opinion on a topic with evidence.
- Identify information as useful, correct and from reliable sources.

What to do at home:

- Discuss the point of view a story is told from and how it would change if another character told the story.
- Ask questions about what your child is reading or watching and ask them to provide examples to support their answers.
- Encourage your child to handwrite a thank you card to someone who has been kind or helpful to them.
- Ask your child to find and discuss interesting words in the books they are reading.
- Discuss how changing the word to one with a similar or opposite meaning would change the meaning or tone of a sentence.

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important to your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support language arts learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity helps students be successful in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Encourage your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- Who is your favorite book character and why?
- What character in a book or movie makes you laugh the most?
- What if your favorite book got a new character from your favorite movie? Who would join the book and what would happen?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't always have the answer. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view about a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- If you switched places with your teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class? Why?
- What was the best thing that happened today? What was the worst?
- What is something that you didn't understand in school today? What steps did you take to figure it out?

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by letting your child see you reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help your child understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- Have you made a list of books you have already read? Why would it be good to keep a list like that?
- How is this book like another book you have read or a movie you have seen?
- Why did you pick this book?

DURING READING

- As you are reading, what questions do you have for the author?
- How does this book remind you of a book you have already read or something you already know?
- How can you find out the meaning of words you don't understand?

AFTER READING

- How did the setting of the story affect the characters and plot?
- What was the theme of the book? What lesson do you think the author wanted the reader to learn?
- How would you rewrite the ending to the story? Why would you change it?

Join the conversation!

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