

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA



## Summary:

Hello, and welcome to ELA! There is always excitement and nerves when talking about entering a new grade – and your 6<sup>th</sup> grade year will be no different. We are hoping that this little peek into our ELA world at HMS will help answer some of your questions. We cannot wait to meet you!

-Mrs. McShane and Mrs. Sutton

In ELA, you will be reading a variety of texts – from whole novels, to short stories and poems, to non-fiction articles. We have 4 units which are outlined below. We also cover grammar/sentence structures, poetry, and writing throughout the year.

Typically, our only homework is to read the assigned novels. We give a reading schedule with each novel and have weekly/biweekly reading checks to assess your comprehension of the texts.

In class, be prepared for a mixture of assignments! We try to mix things up quite a bit, so you'll see small groups, independent work, class discussions, literature circles, Socratic seminars, research projects, scavenger hunts, Lego Art, presentations, speeches, debates, Peep dioramas, Pop-up museum artwork/displays, etc.

## Key Topics:

### Unit 1: Overcoming Adversity

Students read a fiction text(s) as well as a variety of non-fiction texts addressing the topics of facing fears and dealing with disaster. Text options include The Cay, Hatchet, Tangerine, and Julie of the Wolves. At the end of the unit, students will research a self-selected topic on a weather-related emergency event and create a Public Service Announcement to warn/prepare citizens of their community with survival tips. This will also be a Student Service Learning Project in which student can earn up to 10 student service hours.

### Unit 2: What Tales Tell: Discovering Literary Elements

Students will read narrative texts to identify the literary elements used in each and to examine how these elements work together to create the narrative. Text options include The Lightning Thief, Ghost, myths, fairytales, folktales, etc. At the end of the unit, students will choose a chapter from the novel to evaluate the structure and point of view and research a modern fictional heroic character. They will write a crossover narrative in which two characters from different stories meet to solve a problem.

### Unit 3: Changes Over Time: Analyzing Character and Theme Development

Students read short stories selections, as well as a novel-length narrative text in order to analyze the development of theme, character, and plot development. Text options include A Long Walk to Water, Esperanza

Rising, One Crazy Summer, etc. At the end of the unit, students will select a character to analyze how the character changed over the course of the story and then write and deliver a motivational speech from the chosen character's point of view.

## Unit 4: Personal Achievements: Making Decisions that Matter

Students will read both fiction and non-fiction texts in order to analyze how a writer communicates point of view and purpose while developing the central ideas. Texts include My Life in Dog Years, Brown Girl Dreaming, Chasing Space, etc. At the end of the unit, students will analyze a series of quotes in order to choose one that exemplifies ideas and experiences of one of the people read about in the unit. They will then construct an argumentative essay defending their choice.

### Expectations:

This is a year-long course that meets every day for 50 minutes.

Minor Summative grades are made up of smaller classwork assignments and reading/grammar checks.

There are 2 Major Summative grades for each quarter. They include a Performance Based Assessment (PBA) – which would be a longer written assignment like an essay, speech, or narrative, and some kind of Unit Test (this might be an exam, research project, or presentation).

Homework is to read our assigned novel at home following the schedule provided with each quarter. Students should be also taking notes while reading using the strategies assigned for the novel (post-it notes, dialectical journals, Note and Notice, etc.) Occasionally, students will be asked to finish up a classroom activity, review for a quiz, etc. at home as well.

### Photos:



