

Grade 6

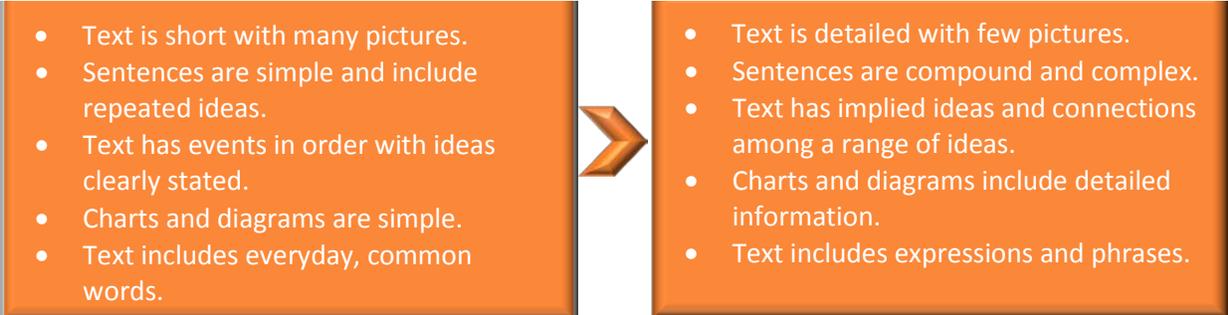
English Language Arts – Grade 6

In middle school, instruction has an increased focus on informational texts, but still includes enjoying reading or listening to and learning more about literary (non-fiction) texts. Students should:

- read/listen to stories (e.g., *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*) and informational texts (e.g., science, geography, history, technical) that may be adapted;
- produce different types of writing: stories, informational, and persuasive; and
- learn communication skills (e.g., class discussions and presentations).

The complexity of the stories and informational text your students will read or listen to will increase throughout the year and as they move to the next grade. Following are examples of how the stories and text become more complex.

Range of Text Complexity

- 
- Text is short with many pictures.
 - Sentences are simple and include repeated ideas.
 - Text has events in order with ideas clearly stated.
 - Charts and diagrams are simple.
 - Text includes everyday, common words.

- Text is detailed with few pictures.
- Sentences are compound and complex.
- Text has implied ideas and connections among a range of ideas.
- Charts and diagrams include detailed information.
- Text includes expressions and phrases.

Instructional activities should be individualized for students as needed.

ELA Sample Instructional Activities (text complexity increases in each grade)

6th Grade

- Learning the meaning of multiple meaning words (e.g., tackle) and figurative language (busy as a bee) from reading 6th grade stories or informational texts
- Using details from a story or informational text to explain what the text clearly states or implies
- Comparing the big idea(s) and information of two stories (e.g., both themes are “making friends takes work.”)
- Summarizing a story or informational text without including any personal opinions
- Understanding how an author’s point of view affects how the reader understands a story and how an author uses evidence to try to convince the reader of a claim in an informational text
- Sharing ideas and information by producing persuasive pieces that include reasons and evidence, informational pieces using a conclusion that summarizes the information, and stories that use words and phrases to signal time (e.g., yesterday)
- Communicating with classmates in discussions, understanding other’s views

7th Grade Preview

- Learning the meaning of new words, and how they affect 7th grade level stories or informational texts
- Determining the big idea or central meaning of stories and informational text
- Understanding how characters, individuals, settings, ideas, and events affect each other (e.g., character’s choices might be different in the city than the country)
- Comparing texts in two different books or mediums (e.g., book and a video) to see how the information is presented
- Finding evidence in an informational text to support the claim the author is trying to convince the reader
- Sharing ideas and information by producing persuasive pieces that include claims, relevant ideas and evidence, informational pieces using a conclusion that summarizes the information, and stories with sequenced events and details to show experiences
- Communicating with classmates in discussions; changing own views when appropriate
- Reporting on a topic using multimedia (e.g., slide show) and using relevant information to support main ideas

Mathematics – Grade 6

In grade 6, the focus in mathematics is on solving word problems with larger numbers, decimals, and fractions, learning about positive and negative numbers, studying perimeter, area, and volume of shapes, and getting detailed information from different types of graphs.

Mathematics Sample Instructional Activities

6th Grade

- Using number lines to locate and compare positive and negative numbers
- Locating positive and negative numbers on a coordinate grid
- Solving word problems by adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing numbers up to three digits
- Solving word problems with fractions and decimals
- Writing and solving expressions and equations with variables and parentheses; writing and solving expressions with exponents; solving linear equations
- Understanding unit rate (e.g., 4 tickets cost \$20, so each ticket costs \$5)
- Calculating areas of four-sided shapes and triangles; making decisions about when to use formulas for perimeter, area, and volume
- Planning for, collecting, and organizing data on line plots, graphs, histograms, and dot plots
- Describing data using mean, median, range and spread

7th Grade Preview

- Multiplying and dividing positive and negative numbers
- Creating and solving equations about real-world problems
- Using ratios and proportions on grids or line graphs to show proportional relationships
- Solving percent problems and word problems that have a combination of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
- Using formulas to solve area, surface area, and volume problems; solving problems about the area and circumference of circles
- Connecting proportionality to geometry to show effect of scale change on distance, area, and volume
- Solving equations and expressions that are not equal about real-world problems
- Collecting and analyzing data; identifying range, median, mean and mode; comparing data
- Determining probability based on data