

6th Grade Language Arts Syllabus

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Welcome to Language Arts! Our school's theme for this year is **Legacy: Learn it, Live it, Leave it**. In Hebrews 12:1-2 the Bible says, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with **perseverance** the race marked out for us. Let us **fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Prayer is one way to become closer to God. By reading the Bible daily, we can fix our eyes on Jesus and know how He wants us to live. He wants us to continue as learners all of our lives and seek His face. Only then can we leave the kind of legacy talked about in Nicole Nordeman's song.

I want to leave a legacy

How will they remember me?

Did I choose to love?

Did I point to you enough to make a mark on things?

I want to leave an offering

A child of mercy and grace who blessed Your name unapologetically

And leave that kind of legacy

Consider the following quotes:

"The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them."

--- Mark Twain

"Happy is he who has laid up in his youth, and held fast in all fortune, a genuine and passionate love of reading."

--- Rufus Choate

Importance of Reading:

Years ago, reading was a national pastime. There were no video games, DVD movies or Instant Messaging to compete for our time. A typical teenager would spend hours reading books, imagining and learning. But many teens in our society today do not believe that reading is important. Research shows, however, that teens who read have higher IQs, are more creative, do better in school, and get higher paying jobs. How do you become a better reader? **READ**.

We have five main goals in this class:

1. To advance your current reading and writing skills
2. To increase your enjoyment of reading and writing
3. To review and work with basic parts of speech, sentence structure, and paragraph construction
4. To increase your understanding of different styles of writing
5. To provide a bridge from elementary reading and writing to junior high literature and expression

We will use a wide variety of methods to reach these goals and hopefully you will have some fun in the process! We will use a textbook from Harcourt Brace but will also explore novels, book excerpts, Internet information and other helpful resources. I look forward to teaching you this year in language arts and will strive to make it a year of excellence! The following is some important information that will help you know what to expect.

Class Content:

This class will contain elements in both reading and writing. In reading we will be working with short stories and novels. You, the student, will be responsible for keeping up with all reading assigned in class. There will be vocabulary and spelling tests given in correlation with the materials read during the week and across a unit. In addition, we will use **Wordly Wise**, a vocabulary program, to help you increase your working vocabulary. Independent reading assignments will also be included in the classroom content throughout the course of the school year. If you hear any vocabulary word you have had or see it in your reading, you may bring it in on an index card with a parent's signature and the context in which you found the word to earn bonus points. ***Please note*- It is very IMPORTANT to save all spelling and vocabulary tests so they may be used to study for the final exam at the end of the spring semester.**

The writing aspect of this class will include the writing process, grammar, and improving your writing style. Every week we will have a writing assignment. Some weeks it may be as short as a few sentences, while other weeks it may be a page or two. We will work with this assignment throughout the week and incorporate the grammar lesson and other activities as well. We will be using **Daily Grammar Practice and mini lessons** to further incorporate grammar in each class and activity.

The Language Arts section of your notebook should be color coded yellow and contain the following subsections:

1. Grammar
2. Quizzes and Tests
3. Writing
4. Miscellaneous – Notes, Handouts, Worksheets, etc.

This is a language arts class and certain supplies will be expected everyday: ***paper, pens or pencils, flash drive, binder and any work that is due***. You should watch the board or notes outside the classroom door to make sure you bring any other appropriate materials to class each day. *****You are required to have a flash drive, which also can be called a pen drive, for the technology projects that you will do throughout the year.*** You can get a flash drive that holds 1 GB worth of files fairly inexpensively. Flash drives are sold at places like Microcenter, Office Depot, Staples, Target, etc. The Spartan Store does carry flash drives as well.

Classroom Rules:

Each student will receive a copy of the classroom rules in class. The following is the discipline plan that we will use. You are encouraged to be responsible for your behavior.

Positive recognition will include praise, positive notes and special privileges.

Consequences:

1. Verbal warning
2. Conference after class or after school
3. Communication to parents
4. Detention
5. Referral to principal

The teacher has the right to send the student to the principal immediately for any action or behavior that is considered severe.

Grading:

Grading is based on whole points. For example if a quiz is worth 40 points, your grade might be noted as earning 35 out of the 40 total possible points. **You are required to check NetClassroom for the most current information on your grades.** This will be your tool for up-to-date information about your grade. Teachers at our school are only required to update grades in NetClassroom once every two weeks. However, for our class, it is possible that grades will be updated sooner. Please check your grades in NetClassroom at least once a week. Of course, feel free to contact me at anytime by email with questions.

- A. Major tests - 100-200 points
- B. Quizzes - 10-50 points
- C. Homework/Daily Work - 10-50 points
- D. Projects - 100-200 points

Cumulative Grades:

- A. Grades are cumulative throughout the semester. It is important for you to get off on a good footing at the beginning of the semester. Grades do not start over at the six weeks. Second six week grades are added to the first six weeks grades, and so on.
- B. There will be a culminating project at the end of the fall semester that will count no more than 10% of your grade. There will be an exam for the course at the end of the spring semester that will count no more than 10% of your grade.

Due Dates: Assignments are due at the **beginning** of the class period. Any assignments turned in after the beginning of the class period will be considered one day late.

Make Up Work: Make-up work is the student's responsibility to complete. Students have one week to make-up a missed test. **It is the student's responsibility to arrange a date/time for any test make-up.**

Late Work: A 5-point deduction will be taken for each day a homework assignment is late. A 10-point deduction will be taken for each day a project is late.

Tardies:

Tardies to class will be noted and result in a reduction for that day's participation grade. Any student not seated when the bell rings is deemed to be tardy. Excused tardies will be considered on an individual basis and will not result in a reduction of the participation grade.

Help Sessions:

Our class help session will be every Thursday morning at 7:30am in Trilab A. Students are required to inform me of plans to attend the help session 24 hours in advance. Occasionally there may be a meeting that I will need to attend. In that case, I will let the students know of an alternate day/time for the help session that week.

Honor Code:

As you sign this syllabus, you are agreeing to follow the GACS Honor Code as it relates to our class.

"In order to maintain honor in my relationships, I agree to do what is right, to speak the truth, and to strive for integrity in all that I do. Therefore, I will not be involved in lying, cheating, or stealing. If I do vary from this path of honor, I will accept the correction from others and the established consequences of this school. Honor is a goal that I seek to attain."

Additionally, upholding the **Honor Code** also means you abide by the **GACS Computer Use Policy** listed in the Parent/Student Handbook on pages 12 - 14. Be sure to read it before signing this syllabus.

Class Website:

Please check the class website for assignments when you are absent. You can access the site by visiting the GACS home page (greateratlantachristian.org), clicking on ***Jr. High***, clicking on ***Faculty Directory*** and clicking on my name in the list.

I understand the Language Arts Syllabus and agree to abide by the GACS Honor Code and Computer Use Policy.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date