



LANGUAGE ARTS

6

FOR FAMILIES

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for 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 excellence!

SIXTH GRADE

What to expect:

Sixth-graders will read a variety of pieces of writing, including books, plays, biographies, poetry, myths, legends and informational and technology-based content. At this age, students are able to understand how authors support their ideas and are looking at the structures of sentences and paragraphs to determine how they help develop a piece of writing. Sixth-graders can provide evidence like facts, examples and details to support their ideas and opinions and are expanding their vocabulary as they learn new words.

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

- Present ideas clearly in spoken presentations and in writing, using appropriate punctuation, capitalization and grammar.
- Understand different writing structures, such as description, compare/contrast, sequential, problem/solution and cause/effect.
- Include important points and details when summarizing a piece of writing.
- Develop longer writing pieces through editing and rewriting to create clear, organized work.
- Describe how setting, plot and message support the author's work.
- Develop essays and reports on a topic, including key details, facts and information.
- Support their point of view on a topic with facts.
- Identify information as useful, correct and verified.

What to do at home:

- Discuss whose point of view the story is told from and how it would change if another character told the story.
- Encourage your child to read multiple pieces of writing on one topic and discuss their similarities and differences.
- Ask questions about what they are reading or watching and ask them to provide examples to support their answers.
- Write a thank-you card by hand to someone who has been kind or helpful to you.
- Discuss interesting words, such as those with many meanings, the same or opposite meanings and those that sound or are spelled alike.



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and want to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Provide opportunities for your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- What invention would you create to help visually impaired students read books more easily?
- 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 have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Families can play a role in helping their children learn to be good communicators by encouraging them to add new words to their vocabulary, express themselves and be good listeners. As children's communication skills grow, they are able to learn new ideas, get along with others and develop positive relationships and a strong self-image.

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

- What goals can you set to help you become a better person?
- What is your favorite part of the year and why?
- How can you make a positive difference for someone today?

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 reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help sixth-graders understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- Are you keeping 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?
- What resources can you use to understand words you aren't familiar with?

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?