

What your child will learn in Grade 6 English Language Arts and Literature

English Language Arts and Literature

Understanding how texts are built

This year your child looks closely at how a text is put together, whether it is a chapter book, a poem, or a set of instructions, and asks why the writer chose that shape. Noticing the form and structure of a text helps your child understand the content better and see connections between what they read, their own life, and the wider world. [See the curriculum.](#)

Speaking and listening well

Your child works on being a clear speaker and an attentive listener, whether that means giving a presentation to the class or listening carefully during a group project. They learn to connect how well someone communicates with the actual skills behind good speaking and listening, such as tone, pacing, and word choice. [See the curriculum.](#)

Building a strong vocabulary

Your child explores how the same word can mean different things depending on the sentence around it, and how choosing the right word makes a message clearer. They practice figuring out word meaning from context and using vocabulary on purpose to communicate exactly what they mean. [See the curriculum.](#)

Understanding what they read

Your child uses a toolkit of strategies, like predicting, questioning, and summarizing, to dig into both stories and information texts. These strategies help them interpret what a text is really saying and respond to it thoughtfully, whether the topic is close to home or connects to bigger ideas shared across cultures. [See the curriculum.](#)

Writing with voice and craft

Your child works through the writing process, from planning to drafting to revising, to create pieces that sound like them. They use both creative thinking and critical thinking to shape stories, reports, or opinion pieces that reflect their own personal style. [See the curriculum.](#)

Using grammar, spelling, and punctuation on purpose

Your child studies the rules of grammar, spelling, and punctuation, not just to follow them but to understand how they affect meaning. They learn to apply these conventions for accuracy and also to bend them sometimes for creative effect, once they understand how they work. [See the curriculum.](#)

How to help at home

- Ask your child to explain why a book or article is organized the way it is: Why does a recipe use numbered steps? Why does a mystery story hold back information until the end? This builds their sense of text form and structure. [See the curriculum.](#)
- Give your child low-pressure chances to speak in front of you, like explaining the rules of a board game or retelling a movie plot, and talk together afterward about what made it clear or confusing. [See the curriculum.](#)
- When you come across an unfamiliar word together, whether in a menu, a game manual, or a book, pause and guess its meaning from the sentence around it before checking a dictionary. [See the curriculum.](#)

- After reading together, ask your child questions that go beyond "what happened," such as "why do you think the character did that" or "does this remind you of anything in real life," to practice comprehension strategies. [See the curriculum.](#)
- Encourage your child to keep a journal, write letters, or write their own short stories at home, and praise the choices that make their writing sound like their own voice. [See the curriculum.](#)
- Play word games like Scrabble, Boggle, or Mad Libs, which get your child noticing spelling and grammar patterns in a fun, low-stakes way. [See the curriculum.](#)