

Literature

Grade 6

Word Identification

Sixth-graders concentrate on the fluent identification of four-syllable Latinate words like independent and occasional. They also review simpler word patterns and preview more complex ones.

Comprehension

Students practice reading with both grade-level texts and individually selected ones. When working with a grade-level text, they are expected to locate information, summarize, apply new concepts, and perform basic character and theme analyses.

Vocabulary

The main focus in vocabulary instruction is the Academic Vocabulary List, a group of words not universally known but instrumental in understanding our society's discourse. Students are expected to master sixty percent of these words by the end of sixth grade.

Literary Canon

Sixth-graders begin a two-year study of the stories and works of western civilization, with the goal of developing cultural literacy and enabling later study of the classics. Texts studied will include stories from the Old Testament, D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths, "The Isles of Greece", and portions of the Famous Men books.

Grade 7

Word Identification

Seventh-graders concentrate on the fluent identification of five-syllable Latinate words like independently and informational. They also review simpler word patterns and preview more complex ones.

Comprehension

Students practice reading with both grade-level texts and individually selected ones. When working with a grade-level text, they are expected to locate information, summarize, apply new concepts, and perform basic character and theme analyses.

Vocabulary

The main focus in vocabulary instruction is the Academic Vocabulary List, a group of words not universally known but instrumental in understanding our society's discourse. Students are expected to master eighty percent of these words by the end of seventh grade.

Literary Canon

Seventh-graders continue to study the stories and works of western civilization, with the goal of developing cultural literacy and enabling later study of the classics. Texts studied include an adaptation of Julius Caesar, excerpts from the New Testament, stories about King Arthur and Robin Hood, and The Sound of Music.

Grade 8

Word Identification

Eighth-graders concentrate on the fluent identification both of long Latinate words like responsibility and incomprehensible and of foreign loanwords like apostrophe and cliché. They also review simpler word patterns.

Comprehension

Students practice reading with both grade-level texts and individually selected ones. When working with a grade-level text, they are expected to locate information, summarize, apply new concepts, and perform basic character and theme analyses.

Vocabulary

The main focus in vocabulary instruction is the Academic Vocabulary List, a group of words not universally known but instrumental in understanding our society's discourse. Students are expected to master the full list by the end of eighth grade.

Literary Canon

Eighth-graders survey English literary classics. Texts studied will include versions of the Arthur cycle, Beowulf, and Macbeth; poems like "My Love Is Like to Ice" and "To the Virgins"; and a novel by Austen or Dickens if time permits.