

# CBMS SIXTH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS SYLLABUS

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## Course Outcome:

### Course Description

The mission of the Knox County Language Arts Department (6-12) is to facilitate learning and to empower students to develop and demonstrate effective language; reading; speaking and listening; and writing in their personal, community, and work environments in an ever-changing society. Implementation of the revised Tennessee state ELA standards will occur during the 2019-2020 school year.

## Instruction:

### Materials

For this class, students need the following:  
1-2 composition notebooks  
1 durable, 3-brad folder with pockets  
pencils  
cap erasers  
1 pack of 3x5 inch index cards  
1 pack of Post-it notes

Purchasing the following novels is advisable but not a requirement (I have a class set of each novel we will study):

***Love that Dog* by Sharon Creech**  
***Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick**  
***Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben  
Mikaelsen**  
***A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue  
Park**

### Fees

There are no additional fees for this class. However, if projects are assigned, students may need to purchase minimal materials and have access

to other household materials (markers, glue, scissors, etc.). Again, we will read several novels this year, and students are encouraged to purchase their own copies of the books. A classroom book will always be offered to all students, but many students will want the ability to annotate the text.

## Topics Covered

Sixth grade ELA focuses on language; reading; speaking and listening; and writing. A copy of the Tennessee state ELA standards is available upon your request.

## Pacing

ELA instruction is based on four modules that cover the Tennessee state ELA standards. These standards are taught through literature and spiral throughout the year.

## Resources

The following resources may be used for instruction:

- ★ *Prentice Hall Literature* (textbook)
- ★ *Love that Dog* by Sharon Creech; *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick; *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson; *Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park
- ★ *Spirit Bear: The Simon Jackson Story* (documentary) and *On the Way to School* (documentary)
- ★ A classroom library of novels is available for checkout

If you do not approve of a specific resource listed on this syllabus, please make your request for an alternative assignment and/or materials for your child to me in writing and a different assignment/materials will be provided. The request should include your name, the child's name, the specific activity in which you do not want your child to participate or materials to which you do not want him/her exposed, and the nature of your objection.

## Assessment:

### Competencies

The standards were developed to ensure that K-12 Tennessee students learn the reading and language skills needed to succeed in school, in the workplace, and in their lives,

with the ultimate goal for students to become life-long learners.

### Assignments

Daily assignments are to be completed as assigned. If an assignment is not completed in class, it is considered homework and will be due the following school day (unless a different due date is given). Students are responsible for recording daily assignments in their agendas.

### Grades

Students' grades are available for viewing at all times on Aspen. Students' averages will be made available for your viewing every 4 ½ weeks. The Knox County grading scale will be used. It is as follows:

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| 93-100 | A |
| 85-92  | B |
| 75-84  | C |
| 70-74  | D |
| 69-0   | F |

Classwork and Homework – Up to 100 points  
Quizzes –100 points  
Projects –100 to 200 points  
Essays/Extended Writing/Book Talks –200 points  
Tests –200 points

### Make Up Work

Missing class means missing learning opportunities. Grades will suffer as a result of poor attendance. Therefore, school attendance is of the utmost importance. Students are responsible for acquiring and completing missed assignments when they return to school. The number of days to complete missed work equals the number of days the students is out of school.

### Late Work

If an assignment is late, 20% will be deducted from the total points earned for the assignment. Late work will continue to be accepted until the end of the 9-week grading

period. Assignments not turned in before the grading period ends will be entered as zeros.

### Posting of Grades

A minimum of one grade will be entered weekly.

## General Expectations:

### Attendance Policy

Missing class means missing learning opportunities. Nothing takes the place of class time. Grades will suffer as a result of poor attendance. Therefore, school attendance is of the utmost importance, and students are expected to acquire make-up work upon their return to school. If an absence is known ahead of time, requesting work is acceptable, and we will do our best to provide it, but we cannot guarantee that we can give all assignments in advance. Late work is penalized by 20% of the total point value of the assignment.

### Classroom Policy (Expectations)

Students should adhere to the following behavioral expectations:

- Listen to instructions.
- Enter (and exit) quietly and be prepared for class.
- Always try your best.
- Respect yourself and others.
- Never make excuses.

### Honor Code

According to Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition:

“Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else’s ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased. It includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Copying verbatim all or part of another’s written work;
2. Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;
3. Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or

research without citing the source;

4. Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.”

\*Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accepting a grade letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents should be involved in making the decision.

Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will have the opportunity to redo the assignment by the next day but will have a grade penalty of 50%.