

Reading and Language Arts

Mrs. Emerick

emerickc@bethel.k12.ct.us

Sixth Grade Course Expectations

2012-2013

During sixth grade, students continue the journey of becoming life long readers and writers. Sixth grade students apply skills they have acquired in the earlier grades to read and interpret more challenging texts. Both on their own and with their peers, they read a variety of informational texts as well as major types of literary texts: fiction, poetry, and drama. They also learn to respond to texts in a variety of ways. In addition, students examine author's craft, how a writer creates emotion and vivid images in the reader's mind.

Students also experiment with their writing style. Students use writing to entertain, to inform, to describe, and to persuade. They plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish narrative and expository writing. They pay careful attention to the six traits of writing: idea generation, organization of ideas, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and correct use of writing conventions. Students enhance their vocabulary repertoire through specific spelling lessons. Also, students learn to have discussions and communicate effectively with each other.

Units of Study

- Moving Beyond Childhood- What distinguishes childhood from adulthood?
- Folklore: A Reflection of Culture- How is folklore simultaneously revealing and limiting?
- Developing Perspective: The Diversity of Our Heritage-How does heritage define us individually and as a nation?
- Building Character: Courage- How are acts of courage revealed in writing?
- Delving Deeper: Problem Solving- How do strategies for solving math problems compare with strategies for solving mysteries?
- The Big Picture: Flight- How do literature and informational text reveal why people dream of flying?

Specific Course Goals

Students will:

- use personal experiences, the printed word, and information gained from observations as a basis for constructing meaning
- use language to clarify thought
- synthesize information from a variety of sources
- respond orally and in writing to various genres using interpretive and evaluative processes
- select and read from a wide range of literature
- collaborate with classmates through discussion
- apply conventions of grammar and language usage to writing
- apply writing strategies learned through mini-lessons to a variety of writing genres



Assessments: Reading and Language Arts

Participation	10% (Preparation included)	Quizzes	25%
Homework	15%	Tests	30%
Class Work	20%		

Class Expectations

- Be ready (have all materials for class)
- Be responsible (Tiger Two)
- Complete class work and homework assignments
- Be respectful to self and others (Tiger Two)
- Participate in class activities

Student's Responsibilities

- Improve self-advocacy
- Read 20-30 minutes nightly
- Compose writer's notebook entries (2-3 times weekly)
- Proofread all work
- Give personal best
- Turn in quality work

Materials

- Three-ring binder
- Pens (blue or black ink)
- Highlighter
- USB Device
- Divider pages
- Two spiral 3-subject notebooks (LA and reading)
- Agenda pad
- 2 Two pocket folders

Teacher's Responsibilities

- Provide a safe and structured environment in which students are engaged and challenged
- Respond to parent phone calls and emails in a timely manner
- Provide extra help
- Record homework on classwebsites.net (Cluster 6B)
- Update Power School Gradebook



What can I do to ensure success for my child in reading and language arts?

- Encourage your child to read every night for at least 20 minutes. Have a conversation about what he or she

is reading. Below are a couple of websites that recommend adolescent literature:

<http://jkrbooks.typepad.com> This blog and Web postings contain book reviews and personal reflections about literature

www.teenreads.com Up to date "Ultimate teen reading"

- Have your child share what he or she is writing in the Writer's Notebook. Encourage your child to share rough drafts of processed pieces. This will aid in editing and revising.
- Make sure you are checking the Parent Portal weekly to monitor your child's grade. It will be updated frequently to show your child's progress
- It is always important to have an open line of communication. Please don't wait if you have an issue you want to discuss until conferences. E-mail is a wonderful communication tool! If you have a work or home e-mail you would be willing to share, I can e-mail you should any concerns arise and vice versa. Sometimes e-mail is not available and calling the cluster phone is just as effective (203) 830-7324.

Cluster 6B Teachers

- Dionne Basher- Math**
- Patti Berkowitz- Special Education**
- Amanda Bolz- Social Studies**
- Cathy Emerick- Reading and Language Arts**
- Patty Kunz- Science**
- Tom Salvador- Reading and Language Arts**
- Bryan Watson- Sixth Grade Administrator**

Amy Mannion- Sixth Grade Guidance Counselor

Important Information

Cluster 6B Phone Number: (203) 830-7324

Class Web: (Link on the Bethel Middle School Home Page) A way to check what your child has for homework in each of his or her Core classes

Email: last name, first initial@bethel.k12.ct.us
(emerick@bethel.k12.ct.us)

Office Number: (203) 830-7300

600 Whittlesey Drive
Bethel, CT 06488