

## 6th Grade - ELA

### 6th Literature & Composition

The 6 Grade Literature and Composition class solidifies the language arts skills taught in the lower grades and lays the foundation for more analytical writing and reading continued in the upper school. With an emphasis toward clarity, students begin by writing illustrative short paragraphs utilizing narration, description, and examples. These paragraphs serve as the topical building blocks for the five-paragraph essay. Of course, writing serves to help the students think clearly about the rich literature in the 6 Grade curriculum. Through a combination of in-class and assigned home readings, students engage in frequent discussions oriented toward a detailed understanding of characters, setting, plot, and meaning.

#### Course Outline

##### Literature

Students will read four core classics in the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. Additional units focus on short stories and poetry. Regardless of the content, students will be instructed to read closely, examine detail, and prepare to discuss elements of characterization and plot. The goal is to foster a culture of literary imagination for each text taught in the year. In addition, students will become familiar with the following literary elements: Alliteration, Metaphor, Personification, Onomatopoeia, Simile, Hyperbole, Litotes/Meiosis, Idiom. Proficiency with figurative language prepares students to more closely read poetry and rich literature.

The order of the books is presented for both practical and philosophical reasons. Of the four classics, *Shane* is placed first to promote transition students to more independent reading. The dramatic tension excites the reader, and Bob Starrett's time with Shane provides ample opportunity to discuss how the mysterious

character is viewed by the rest. Following *Shane*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* fits nicely in the second quarter. As the seasons change, the class will notice that Tom's character does not. He is constantly playing tricks, fighting imaginary enemies, and getting himself into deeper and deeper amounts of trouble.

In the third quarter, as the students become expectant of spring, they will meet Anne Shirley. Anne epitomizes the beauty and restorative time that spring provides. Her sorrowful beginning leads her to grow under the care of Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert. Finally, sixth graders benefit from rounding out the year with *The Wind in the Willows*. Unsuspecting Mole found himself in an altogether unfamiliar world, much like the sixth graders did. Though under the mentorship of new friends, he experiences serenity, excitement, and of course, the escapades of Mr. Toad.

- Unit 1: Shane (15 lessons)
- Unit 2: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (15 lessons)
- Unit 3: Poetry (3 lessons)
- Unit 4: Anne of Green Gables (21 lessons)
- Unit 5: Sonnets (2 lessons)
- Unit 6: Short Stories (3 lessons)
- Unit 7: The Wind in the Willows (16 lessons)

##### Grammar and Composition

The grammar and composition curriculum begins with a review of concepts taught in the lower school. The introductory unit reviews parts of speech, sentence types, and common errors in writing mechanics. This unit serves as a point of common knowledge for students who may be new to Great Hearts. The progression of units introduces more complexities in the study of English grammar while

always reviewing earlier material. The active process of thinking through and diagramming sentences informs the students when they begin creating their own sentences, paragraphs, and essays. . Students will be introduced to writing topic sentences that are limited, specific, and unified. As they begin with analytical writing, students will learn to use textual evidence to support their claims. Students will progress from single paragraph writing to multi-paragraph writing, learning the structure of introductions, body paragraphs, and conclusions. Grammar review and writing exercises using copia and imitation are included in many of the daily lessons so students will have regular opportunities to hone their grammatical understanding and writing skills throughout the year.

### **Grammar**

- Unit 1: Grammar Review (9 lessons)
- Unit 2: Adverbial Elements (5 lessons)
- Unit 3: Adverbial Clauses (5 lessons)
- Unit 4: Reflexive Pronouns (5 lessons)
- Unit 5: Verbals--Participles (5 lessons)
- Unit 6: Verbals--Gerunds (5 lessons)
- Unit 7: Verbals--Infinitives (5 lessons)
- Unit 8: Types of Sentences (5 lessons)

### **Composition**

- Unit 1: Descriptive Writing (4 lessons)
- Unit 2: Narrative Writing (4 lessons)
- Unit 3: Analytical Paragraph (5 lessons)
- Unit 4: Introductions and Conclusions (5 lessons)
- Unit 5: Body Paragraphs (4 lessons)
- Unit 6: Comparison (3 lessons)
- Unit 7: Five Paragraph Essay (5 lessons)