

PETERS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

CORE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

LANGUAGE ARTS

GRADE 6

For each of the sections that follow, students may be required to understand, apply, analyze, evaluate or create the particular concepts being taught.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will begin with a novel study, creative/narrative writing, a focus on theme, and a study of the basic parts of speech. Major units of language arts study include; the basic parts of speech, narrative/creative writing, argumentative writing, informational writing and the research process. Major units of reading skill study include; author's craft, theme, reading and interpreting non-fiction/informational text, basic literary elements and literary genres.

STUDY SKILLS

- Maintain and organize all ELA materials (binders, notebooks, novels, etc.)
- Adequately prepare for quizzes and assessments through the development of study skills and test-taking strategies.
- Read independently each day.
- Show responsibility by completing classwork and homework assignments.

MAJOR UNIT THEMES:

1. Unit 1

- *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt – Novel Study (figurative language, setting, theme, symbolism, foreshadowing/flashback, fantasy as a literary genre)
- IFL: Analysis of Theme – Identity
- Narrative/Creative Writing
- Study of basic parts of speech (dashes, commas, dialogue, complete/fragment/run-on sentences)

2. Unit 2

- *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix - Novel Study (tone and mood, point of view, characterization, making inferences, analogies)
- IFL: Creepy Tales
- Mystery/Suspense Genre writing
- Study of basic parts of speech (subject/verb agreement, verb shifts, pronouns, nonrestrictive and parenthetical elements, inappropriate shifts in verb tense)

- Literature Circle Options: *Al Capone does my Shirts, Belle Prater, Shiloh, Wringer, Surviving the Applewhites, Where the Red Fern Grow, Tangerine, Stormbreaker, Westing Game, House of the Scorpion, Mousetrap, Young Man and the Sea, Lord of the Deep, Week in the Woods, Far North, Black Stallion, Redwall, Blue Sword, Eragon, Pendragon, Savvy*

3. Unit 3

- *The Watsons go to Birmingham – 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis – Novel Study (comprehension of literary non-fiction, connotation and denotation, central idea, similar information presented by multiple authors, Greek/Latin roots, multiple-meaning words)
- IFL: How the Brain Remembers
- Argumentative Writing
- Study of basic parts of speech (parentheses, frequently confused words, overall review of basic parts of speech)
- Literature Circle Options: *Jim Thorpe, Leon’s Story, Behind the Blue and Gray, Lizzie Stanton, A Strong Right Arm, Royal Palms, Muhammad Ali, Emperor’s Silent Army, Spies, Farewell in Manzanar, Journey to Topaz, Angel on the Square, Boy at War, Boy no More, Snow Treasure, Under the Blood Red Sun, Journey Home, Burying the Sun, Number the Stars, Camelrider, Breadwinner, Parvana’s Journey, Mud City, Homeless Bird, Shiva’s Fire, Other Side of Truth, Ties that Bind, Ties that Break, Thura’s Diary, Going Home*

MATERIALS (and Supplemental materials used in course):

- Let’s Target Grammar Workbook
- Grammar for Writing Textbook
- Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt
- Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- The Watsons go to Birmingham - 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis
- IFL: Analysis of Theme - Identity
- IFL: Creepy Tales
- IFL: How the Brain Remembers
- 6th Grade Protected Novel List (48 titles protected for classroom/literature circle use)
- IXL Website (grammar practice and review)