



## Mrs. Dowe's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts Syllabus 2023-2024

### Contact Information:

Mrs. Dowe  
 Room 36  
 School Phone Number: 603-474-9221  
 E-mail: [adowe@sau21.org](mailto:adowe@sau21.org)



Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to 6th-grade language arts! I am looking forward to a productive and fun-filled school year getting to know you and your child! I am excited to share that I am expecting my third child during the beginning of October! I will be out for 6-8 weeks and will have a long-term substitute who will be announced soon.

This course syllabus is a brief overview of what we will be working on together throughout the year. This syllabus and other course information, including assignments and announcements, will be posted to Google Classroom, which can be accessed using your school-assigned student email. Parents/guardians, please see the last page of this syllabus to sign up for Google Classroom email notifications.

The best way to reach me is by e-mail. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions or address any concerns at any time through email or another preferred form of communication.

### Supplies:

Here is a list of what you need to bring to class **EVERY DAY** to be successful:

- A Growth Mindset
- A fully charged Chromebook
- Your Silent Reading Book
- Pencil and highlighter

### Reading Resources:

*Mirrors and Windows: Connecting with Literature* Textbook  
*The Giver* by Lois Lowry  
*A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens  
*So Far from the Bamboo Grove* by Yoko Kawashima Watkins

STARECAT.COM

DEVELOPING A **GROWTH MINDSET**

INSTEAD OF.....	TRY THINKING....
I'm not good at this	What am I missing?
I give up	I'll use a different strategy
It's good enough	Is this really my best work?
I can't make this any better	I can always improve
This is too hard	This may take some time
I made a mistake	Mistakes help me to learn
I just can't do this	I am going to train my brain
I'll never be that smart	I will learn how to do this
Plan A didn't work	There's always Plan B
My friend can do it	I will learn from them

## **Reading Logs:**

The best way to improve reading fluency is by reading on a regular basis. You need to complete and turn in a monthly reading log showing the minutes you have read. The goal is for you to read 600 minutes a month, which equals 20 minutes a day for 30 days. This can be easily accomplished, especially because we will start off each day reading for five minutes of class and we have sustained silent reading time built into our schedule.

Each reading log is due at the first of each month unless the first falls on a weekend/holiday. There is a **BONUS** opportunity! For every 60 minutes over your goal of 600, you will earn a raffle ticket for a raffle bag prize! Please see your reading log for more information!

## **Writing and Grammar:**

Writing assignments, demonstrating the application of grammar skills on a larger scale, will be given throughout the year. These writing assignments will focus on incorporating themes and vocabulary from our reading units, as well as, allowing you to demonstrate the steps of the writing process within the many different writing types including research writing, persuasive writing, narrative writing, and descriptive writing, using poetry and prose.

## **Vocabulary:**

You will complete a vocabulary placement test at the beginning of the year, which will assign you to a vocabulary workbook that meets you at your current vocabulary level. We will conference before your vocabulary book is assigned to ensure that it is not too difficult, but also not too easy.

We will also explore vocabulary in our short stories and novels. We will have vocabulary quizzes; however, they will not be the traditional fill-in-the-blank quizzes. In a world of technology, we can access definitions at any time. Our quizzes will be writing-based, where you will be asked to complete a short writing piece that demonstrates that you know *how* to use the vocabulary words correctly.

## **Language Arts Notebooks**

You will be provided with a language arts notebook. These notebooks will be used to house our notes, brainstorming, journaling, etc. You are welcome to bring notebooks home, however, I ask that they return to class the next day. There is a home for notebooks within the classroom.

## **Grading:**

I will accept any missing assignments (as long as the trimester grades are open) without any late penalties. I encourage you to reassess your assignments to demonstrate proficiency. The beauty of our mistakes is that we learn from them! I want you to review the grading rubrics to discover where we can strengthen your assignment to demonstrate proficiency and beyond!

## **Absences:**

If you are absent from class it is **your responsibility** to come to see me for missing information. I have an “**Extras Bin**” in the classroom where you can find extra copies of the assignments completed in class.

Please complete and detach the form below to turn in. This will be the first assignment.



**Students:**

I (print your first and last name), \_\_\_\_\_, have fully read this syllabus and understand what is expected.

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Preferred Contact:**

Preferred method of contact (circle one):      Email              Phone              I will send paper notes

- Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one:**

Yes, I would like to receive updates/posts from Google Classroom to my preferred email.

No, I would not like to receive updates/posts from Google Classroom.



**Comments/Questions:**