

BLUE HERON MIDDLE SCHOOL

3939 San Juan Avenue
Port Townsend, WA 98368
Phone: (360) 379-4540
Fax: (360) 379-4548



Ms. Victoria Kalscheuer, Principal
Ms. Erin O'Leary, Assistant Principal
Grades 6 - 8
<https://blueheron.ptschools.org/>

6th Grade Language Arts Syllabus

KayDee Weddle
Classroom: 604
Phone: 360-680-5692

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome to Language Arts! I am looking forward to a wonderful year full of adventure and creativity. Below is some basic information about this class and how it works. Let me know if you have any questions.

Course Description/Overview

This Language Arts class focuses on literacy, communication, and critical thinking skills, all while creating lifelong readers. Students can expect to read various texts this year, including nonfiction, fiction, current events, textbooks, essays, and poetry. These writing pieces will model the different writing styles students will be working on throughout the year. We will also explore the concepts of genre, theme, character, setting, tone/mood, plot, and author intent. In addition, students will learn about different purposes and strategies for reading and demonstrate independence in reading complex texts.

General Class Rules

1.Be here. Be prepared in your assigned seat when class starts. If you fail to attend class, you are jeopardizing your learning as attendance is imperative to your success. When you are absent, you must check Google Classroom and The Absent File for any missing work or handouts.

2. Be Responsible. Most of your supplies can stay in my classroom, but you must be prepared daily. All assignments are turned into the turn-in tray or on Google Classroom. Please have an outside novel to read at all times, as mandatory reading time will be assigned when we finish an assignment/project early. Each week, you will be required to write the weekly homework and assignments in your planner so that you can keep track of your work. You can also find this on our weekly agendas in Google Classroom. All assignments are expected to be turned in on time. All work given is valuable and offers insight into the growth and understanding of the student based on their ability to reach state benchmarks and standards. I will accept late work **two weeks** after the assigned due date. Once the late work deadline has passed, no late work will be accepted. Assignments turned in after an absence will not be counted as late but must be turned in timely upon return of an absence. If it exceeds the due date after an absence (for example, if a student is absent four school days, they will get four school days to make up the work and not be counted late), then that assignment will be

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deemed late and receive the same penalty for late work. It is imperative that students not procrastinate and keep track of their assignments, being timely and prompt, and turning everything in on time.

3. Be Respectful. You must be courteous and respectful to all teachers, students, and guests. There will not be any swearing, name-calling, or snide comments. Your cell phone must be turned off and stowed in your bag unless we use it for class or you're given special permission. Otherwise, it will be sent to the office if misuse occurs. Respecting the learning space includes Chromebook, classroom, materials provided to you, books checked out, etc.

4. Be Awesome. Simply put, if you respect others, they will respect you. Be willing to be goofy and laugh but also hard-working and someone everyone enjoys being around daily. Being a hard worker, a critical thinker, and willing to take risks makes my heart happy. If you do all of these things, you will love ELA.

Units of Study

Introduction to the Reading and Writing Life
Introduction to Interpretive Work
Story and the Brain
Dealing With Difficulty
Reading Nonfiction Like a Detective
Reading and Writing Fairy Tales
How Poems Are Built

Choice Read Novel Studies

- **Different Perspectives Unit**
 - **Wonder**
 - **El Deafo**
 - **Out of My Mind**
 - **Finding Langston**
- **Nonfiction Unit**
 - **Students will pick their own Nonfiction books**

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Standards/Benchmarks as stated in the Common Core State Standards

Reading Literature & Informational Text

1. **RL.6.1 / RI.6.1** – Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
2. **RL.6.2 / RI.6.2** – Determine a central idea or theme and explain how it is conveyed through details; summarize the text objectively.
3. **RL.6.3 / RI.6.3** – Analyze how characters, events, or ideas develop and interact within a text.

Writing

4. **W.6.1 & W.6.2** – Write arguments and informative/explanatory texts to examine topics and support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
5. **W.6.3** – Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences using effective techniques, descriptive details, and well-structured sequences.
6. **W.6.9** – Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Speaking & Listening

7. **SL.6.1** – Engage effectively in collaborative discussions, building on others' ideas and expressing your own clearly.
8. **SL.6.4** – Present claims and findings in a focused, coherent manner with appropriate details and evidence.

Language

9. **L.6.1 & L.6.2** – Demonstrate command of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
10. **L.6.4** – Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words using context clues, word parts, and reference materials.

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Expectations for Success

Students will spend time working independently and in small groups. I encourage all students to develop positive working relationships in the classroom and take responsibility for contributing to the learning environment. Part of a student's grade in ELA is based on their participation and positive contribution to the classroom community.

Grading

Students will show their learning through various summative and formative assessments outlined in the Common Core State Standards. Daily assignments/activities will include journal entries, reading comprehension activities, creative pieces, timed responses, vocabulary quizzes, grammar assignments, current events, and Socratic Seminars. All significant projects or pieces of writing are assessed based on rubrics. Rubrics are given before the completion of the assignment to help students better meet learning targets. Throughout the year, students will keep portfolios of their work and reflect upon their progress. This practice benefits both students and teachers in setting goals for further learning.

Assessment Procedure

Students' grades will be weighted as follows:

Writing (planning, drafts, peer reviews, final drafts, journals, etc.) 30%

Classwork/Assignments 40%

Discussion (This aligns specifically to Speaking and Listening Common Core State Standards) 10%

Quiz/Tests 10%

Participation (engaged in class activities, formative assessment checks, personal responsibility, utilizing class time effectively, etc.) 10%

Anytime you want to know how your child is doing in class, you may access Skyward for their current grades. You may also call or email, and I will send a report home with them.

Grade scale:

A	93% - 100%	B+	87% - 89%	C+	77% - 79%	D+	67% - 69%
A	90% - 92%	B	83% - 86%	C	73% - 76%	D	63% - 66%
-		B-	80% - 82%	C-	70% - 72%	D-	60% - 62%
							59% and below
							NC

Work Completion/Work Habits

All major assignments must be turned in for the student to earn a passing grade for the class. No late work will be accepted one week before the last day of the quarter. All students must read at home for at least 30 minutes each night. While I do not assign homework, any assignments not

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finished during the allotted class time will need to be completed at home and turned in before the due date.

Cell Phone Policy

Phones and electronic devices must be silenced and placed out of view in this class. Note to Parents: Please contact your child by calling the office and not calling or texting the student's cell phone. The Blue Heron Handbook has complete details on the phone policy.

Academic Integrity

The student's individually-assigned work must be their own. If a student cheats or copies work and claims it as their work, they will receive reduced or zero credit on the assignment/test. The student may or may not (at the teacher's discretion) have the opportunity to make up the grade. A parent/guardian will be notified with concerns about questionable academic integrity.

A.I. Policy

AI tools may only be used when explicitly directed by the teacher. To ensure students are completing their own work and developing essential skills, many assignments may be required to be handwritten first before being typed or submitted. Any use of AI on assignments without permission will be considered academic dishonesty and will result in a zero on the assignment.

How Can Parents Help

The best support you can provide your child in 6th grade ELA is to ask them regularly what we are working on in class. Take an active interest in the subjects your child is exploring. You can stay current on their assignments by checking your child's planner and Google Classroom. Let me know if you are interested in helping out in any way.

Weddle Weekly

Every Friday, I will send out a newsletter called Weddle Weekly. This will give you a glimpse of the upcoming week. This is sent via Skyward email. If you did not receive this week's Weddle Weekly, please contact the Blue Heron office to confirm the email you have on file. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Contact Information

I am here to assist your student with their learning and hope that you will help make this a positive collaboration for your student to be successful. As mentioned, this is the year students are given much more responsibility and need support and guidance to handle their school work independently. Working as a team is essential for your child to be successful. However, it is your student's responsibility to communicate with their teachers about missing assignments, making up work, and what they can do to improve their grades.

I am available **by appointment only (unless otherwise notified)**. Students are held accountable for their class work and behavior in class, and I hold them to this standard on a daily basis. If

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they need extra help, I am available first thing in the morning, for lunch, and on an appointment basis after school. You can always email me, as this is the quickest way to reach me.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

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Detach and return to Ms. Weddle **by September 12th.**

I have read and understood the course syllabus and outline for Ms. Weddle's 6th Grade ELA.

Student's name (Printed)

Student's Signature

Guardian's name (Printed)

Guardians Signature

Please ensure ALL SKYWARD INFORMATION IS UP TO DATE, as I use Skyward Messenger for quarterly/unit-based updates! If Skyward is incorrect, please contact the Blue Heron Middle School office.