

Grade Six Reading and Language Arts: An Overview

Spelling and Vocabulary Development

are taught through the examination of Greek and Latin (GAL) roots, prefixes, and suffixes. In addition to increasing spelling ability, this approach significantly improves vocabulary development and reading comprehension.

Each GAL list is introduced at the beginning of the week, discussed and practiced throughout the week in group work, and assessed at week's end. By the completion of the school year, over 30 roots (300 words) will be covered. However, in the course of the study, students will be exposed to ten times as many GAL word parts as they complete their assignments. All GAL lists (and interactive practice modules and games) can be found at <http://www.spellingcity.com/schoch>.

MONDAY
GAL
Reading

Writing Instruction

is most often directly integrated into reading instruction, vocabulary development, grammar, and technology. Written responses and reflections will vary in length from a single sentence to multi-paragraph stories and essays. Writing from models with an audience in mind will be emphasized at all times.

Discrete instruction in the writing process will take place at least once a week in the classroom. Students will learn the differences between narrative, expository, descriptive, and persuasive writing. Each novel has its own writing assessments, and students will additionally complete timed writing prompts over the course of the school year in preparation for standardized testing.

WEDNESDAY
GAL
Reading
Writing

Technology Integration

occurs in class almost daily via one-to-one laptop use. Students will use computers for interactive reading and writing activities, word work, and research. Students will also regularly respond to current events through a number of student-oriented sites online.

Since some homework assignments need to be completed on the computer, students without Internet access at home should take advantage of computers available at the library or make arrangements with the teacher to use the classroom computers before or after school, or during the lunch period. Internet protocol and safety are emphasized in our sessions, and all students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately online.

FRIDAY
GAL
Reading

TUESDAY

Reading
Writing
GUM

Reading Instruction

uses authentic literature including novels, articles, Internet sources, poetry, and drama. Book reports are assigned monthly. The majority of in-class reading centers on a quarterly **theme**, which is supported by **guiding questions**. Chapters in the theme novel are often assigned to be read at home for discussion the next school day.

We'll begin this year with the novel *Holes*, which focuses upon the theme of **Identity**. Identity might be defined as uniqueness, distinctiveness, individuality, or personality. The identity of a person or group is rarely static, but instead is constantly being changed by internal and external forces.

Guiding Questions:

- How do we form our identities?
- How is identity shaped by relationships and experiences?
- What can you learn about yourself by studying the lives of others?
- When should an individual take a stand in opposition to an individual or larger group?
- In a culture where we are bombarded with other people trying to define us, how do we make decisions for ourselves?

The complete list of themes and related novels for this year is available at <http://schochsite.pbworks.com> (see Themes for Reading in Grade Six in the index).

THURSDAY

Reading
Writing
GUM

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics

are taught through both discrete instruction (weekly studies of prepositional phrases, appositives, predicate adjectives, etc.) and context (discussions of how and why certain language conventions are used by writers). Students will use the *Write Source* text in class as a grammar reference.

Students needing a resource for use at home can use the *GUM Handbook* which is linked as a printable pdf file from Mr. Schoch's web site index or accessed directly from the publisher:
<http://www.zaner-bloser.com/educator/products/writing/gum.aspx?id=7068>.

GRADING:

Homework/Organization	25%
Class/Group Work	25%
Tests/Quizzes/Prompts	40%
Reading Logs/ Current Events	10%

- **No Late Assignments Accepted**
- **No Make-Up Tests Administered**
- **Extra Credit Assignments Are Available Weekly**