

Key Skills in the Sixth Grade

Grade Six students have mastered the four arithmetic operations with whole numbers, positive fractions and decimals, and positive and negative integers. They accurately compute and solve problems in statistics, geometry, probability, ratio, and proportion. In English/language arts, students read and understand a wide variety of text, connecting essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives. They clarify their understanding by creating outlines, logical notes, summaries, and reports. In addition to their regular school reading, students in grade six make progress toward the 8th grade goal of reading one million words annually on their own.

By the end of the year, students in grade six should be able to independently read:

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor; *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl; *Little House* (series) by Laura Ingalls Wilder; *The Great Brain* by John Fitzgerald; *Harry Potter* (series) by J.K. Rowling; *The Cay* by Theodore Taylor.

Math

Students:

- interpret and use ratios and proportions to solve problems
- determine least common multiple and greatest common divisor of whole numbers & use them to solve problems involving fractions
- write and solve one-step linear equations in one variable
- apply algebraic order of operations and the commutative, associative, and distributive properties
- know the formulas for circumference and area of a circle and use π
- identify angles as vertical, adjacent, complementary, or supplementary and can describe these terms
- draw quadrilaterals and triangles from given information such as a right isosceles triangle
- compute the range, mean, median, and mode of data sets and understand outliers and central tendency
- represent probabilities as ratios, proportions, decimals between 0 & 1, and percentages between 0 & 100
- represent all possible outcomes for compound events on tables, grids, or tree diagrams

English/Language Arts

Students:

- use their knowledge of word origins and historical and literary context clues to determine the meaning of specialized vocabulary and understand the precise meaning of grade level appropriate words
- identify and interpret figurative language and words with multiple meanings
- connect and clarify main ideas by identifying their relationship to other sources and related topics
- note instances of unsupported inferences, fallacious reasoning, persuasion, and propaganda in text
- identify the forms of fiction and describe the major characteristics of each form
- analyze the effect of qualities of the character (e.g., courage or cowardice) on the plot and resolution
- define how tone/meaning are conveyed in poetry through word choice, figurative language, sentence structure, line length, punctuation, rhythm, repetition, and rhyme
- write clear and coherent, focused essays that exhibit awareness of the audience and purpose
- write personal letters, letters to the editor, reviews/responses to literature, poems, reports, and narratives
- write expository compositions (e.g., descriptions, explanations, compare/contrast, problem/solution)
- write five paragraph essays that develop the topic and conclude with a detailed summary linked to the purpose of the composition
- compose documents using appropriate formatting and word-processing skills
- use simple, compound, and compound-complex sentences to express complete thoughts
- identify and use indefinite pronouns and present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect verb tenses
- use colons, semi-colons, and commas correctly in salutations and when linking two clauses
- deliver well-organized formal oral presentations employing traditional rhetorical strategies (narration, exposition, persuasion, or description)