

Sequoyah Middle School

6th Grade English Language Arts

2025-2026 Course Syllabus

Contact Information:

Teacher Email: cheyenne.miles@sequoyaheagles.net

School Phone: 918-343-5105

Course Description:

6th Grade students will learn how to read literature and analyze its meaning. Students will break down the surface layer of literature, such as characters, settings, and events, and then recognize and evaluate the symbolic and narrative layers, such as themes, symbols, motifs, and narrative voice. Students will also learn to interpret the reading, both through insights gained through contextual evidence and personal response to the readings and analyze the historical or cultural context in literature. Students will continue enhancing their vocabulary and spelling skills, continue learning the writing process, and give oral presentations.

Materials:

1. A 3-ring binder (2 inch) with 5 divider pockets and a zipper pencil pouch to keep track of assignments and handouts throughout the year.
2. Red pens.
3. Wide-ruled notebook paper to go inside of your binder.
4. Pencils (mechanical or #2).
5. An eraser.
6. Two different colors of highlighters.

You will need to bring these supplies to class daily.

Course Requirements:

Readings:

Students will read in a collaborative sense, with the whole class or in small groups, and also individually. 6th grade reading greatly emphasizes the enhancement of independent reading, but also the ability to listen to others and share their ideas and findings with their peers. Students will read a variety of literature, from novels, non-fiction works to short stories and poetry.

Assignments:

Students will have class time to work on assignments assigned that day. Anything not finished during that class period will be homework, which will be due at the beginning of their hour the following day.

Essays:

Students will complete essays within the class but may need to spend extra time outside of class composing, editing, or finishing them. Class time will be given to work on the process behind writing, topic discussion, and formatting.

Tests:

Students will take alternating spelling and vocab tests each week, which means one week students will be given a spelling list on Monday and on Friday, a test will be given. The next week, students will be given a vocabulary list on Monday, and the test will be on Friday. Spelling and vocabulary tests will usually be centered around the works of literature we are working on. If during a week when we have no reading assigned and are working on the writing process or grammar, then the list will consist of 6th grade level words and expected vocabulary.

Grading Scale & Policies:

- A: 100-90%
- B: 89-80%
- C: 79-70%
- D: 69-60%
- F: 59-0%

Major Grade (to be determined at teacher discretion, but will primarily consist of work completed in class, such as: tests, quizzes, and daily work assignments) = **60% of total grade**

Minor Grade (to be determined at teacher discretion, but will primarily consist of work completed outside of the classroom, i.e., homework) = **40% of total grade**

Classroom Expectations:

- 1) Treat others and their materials with respect (Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto to).
- 2) Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- 3) Don't talk when instruction is being given or others are speaking and during worktime/reading time, even if you have finished.
- 4) Surprise! Students turn in a piece of paper with your name and an answer to the following question for five bonus points: What is your favorite food?
- 5) Raise your hand to ask a question or for better understanding.
- 6) Have all required daily materials with you.
- 7) Do your best on your work and turn homework in on time and to the correct basket.
- 8) Don't disturb others who are trying to learn by disrupting the class.

- ★ Students, if you need help, please see me, it's what I'm here for.
- ★ Parents, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Absence and Make-up Policy:

School policy provides one make-up day per excused absence. It is your responsibility to ask for your missing assignments at the beginning of class on the day you return and to turn your work back in with a day of receiving, at the beginning of your hour. If you know you are going to be absent due to extracurriculars or other circumstances, ask for your work in advance and I will supply you with the necessary materials to complete it, if applicable.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

Plagiarism is taking someone else's work or ideas and claiming it as your own through exact copying or even close imitation. In any subject this is something taken very seriously and is not tolerated. If discovered that you have plagiarized or cheated on an assignment, disciplinary action will be taken. As many sites that are out there that can easily write something for you or give you a quick answer, there are just as many that teachers can and will use to verify original work. This also applies to sharing your homework with a friend or classmate. We assign assignments to find out your knowledge and original thoughts, not just how you interpret or copy your friend's work. If this occurs, both, or all, involved will face disciplinary action. So don't copy, cheat, or plagiarize; just turn in your original thought.

Late Work Policy:

Most work assigned in class will be completed during class time or students will be provided with additional class time the following day to provide students ample time for completion in class. Occasionally, some assignments may need to be completed at home, such as larger projects and parts of an essay. Any work taken home or assigned as homework will be due the next day's class period. Assignments will be accepted one day late for a **25%** reduction the first day and **50%** on the second day. If the assignment is not turned in by the third day, then the assignment is an automatic **0%** with no ability to redo it. There will be certain assignments that are not applicable for late work, such as final essays and projects, for example. If a student is absent on test day, then it is their responsibility to schedule a time to make up the test.

Phone Policy and Handbook:

No phones will be allowed in the classroom. Phones are to be turned off and stored in student lockers at the start of the day. Those caught with phones in the classroom will face consequences found in the Student Handbook.

Please return this page to Ms. Miles. This is due by
Wednesday, 8/20/2025 and is worth 20 points.

I have read the course syllabus and will follow all procedures and expectations in my English class.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date