

**Grace Christian Academy
Course Description**

Course Title: Sixth Grade Language Arts
Course Length: Full Year

Class Meetings: 4x per week (Block Schedule)
Textbooks: *English Composition and Grammar*,
Harcourt-Brace-Jovanovich; *Spelling, Vocabulary
& Poetry 6, Mountain Pathways, Of America*;
A Beka;

General Course Description:

This course begins with a one-week focus on godly communication. Students have an opportunity to look at ways Christians can bless others by their speech, written communication and body language. Key Bible verses, class discussion, and short composition assignments are used to present the concept that language is a gift of the Creator to His children.

The sixth grade Language Arts program focuses on:

- Composition (including the steps of the writing process, paragraph structure and organization, word choice, manuscript form, friendly letter, descriptive, narrative, and expository writing)
- Grammar (parts of speech, usage, mechanics)
- Literature appreciation and understanding of literary terms and styles. Two novels are read and discussed in class.
- Spelling
- Vocabulary based on Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes

Biblical Principles:

God is a communicating God; He wants us to know His thoughts. (Amos 4:13, Hebrews 1:1-2)

The ability to communicate with one another and with God is part of His plan for our lives. (Exodus 4:10-12, Jeremiah 1:4-9, Galatians 4:6)

We must evaluate the truth of all other communication by the Bible, since it alone is absolute truth. (Isaiah 8:20, 2 Corinthians 6:1-7)

General Course Content:

1st Quarter:

Principles of Godly Communication
Paragraph structure: topic sentences, supporting details, clincher sentence
Descriptive writing using rich sensory detail
Friendly letter writing (Letter to grandparents for Grandparents Day)
Narrative writing (original Folk Hero story)
Selections from *Mountain Pathways*, reading comprehension & vocabulary exercises
Short journal entries on selected topics
One written book report chosen from book list
Spelling and vocabulary units

2nd Quarter:

Novel: *Number the Stars* literature unit, including oral reading, comprehension exercises, composition assignments, and vocabulary
Parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, adjectives, prepositions, conjunctions

Sentence structures: Diagramming of simple and compound sentences

Spelling and vocabulary units

Narrative: Personal experience paragraph

Short journal entries on selected topics

One oral book report chosen from book list

3rd Quarter:

Parts of speech continued: Action, Linking, and Helping Verbs; Adverbs; Interjections.

Diagramming of prepositional phrases and complements (direct objects, predicate adjectives, predicate nouns)

Usage: Pronouns (subject/object forms); subject-verb agreement; irregular verbs; frequently confused words

Mechanics: capitalization, punctuation

Research report: Black History

Composition skills: Brainstorming, outlining, revising a first draft (using proofreader's symbols, methods of combining sentences and changing word order; editing for unity and coherence; improving word choices using a thesaurus); and proofreading

Journal entries on selected topics

One book report from book list

4th Quarter:

Novel: *Island of the Blue Dolphins* literature unit

Composition Practice: Contrast paper (two cultures based on literature unit);

Space-order paragraph (based on literature unit)

Journal entries

Written Book Report

Mechanics review

Spelling and vocabulary units

Related Student Objectives/Learner Outcomes:

The student will learn to:

Literature:

1. Recall in his own words the story/passage with events in chronological order
2. State the author's purpose
3. Draw a timeline of the progression of a short story (setting and characters, problem, complications, climax, resolution)
4. Draw conclusions and make generalizations from written material
5. Identify point of view (1st, 3rd person) of a passage
6. Follow steps of the writing process
7. Distinguish between a broad subject and narrow topic
8. Explain characteristics of a folk hero (tall tale) story
9. Define literary terms and locate examples within the context of the passage (metaphor, simile, setting, plot, foreshadowing, climax, characterization, symbolism, mood, and irony, theme)
10. Explain the difference between connotation and denotation of word choices
11. Give examples that lessons learned by the main character could apply to his own life.
12. Make predictions about outcome of a story based on clues and information

13. Explain ways in which a character demonstrates positive spiritual qualities, (such as honesty, faith, love, persistence, etc.)
14. Identify the following genres (poetry, modern fiction, historical fiction, biography, science fiction, non-fiction, drama)
15. Use knowledge of decoding techniques to pronounce unfamiliar words
16. Make inferences (from the paragraph context) about what unfamiliar expressions mean (“baiting the teacher” “meeting his Waterloo”)
17. Differentiate between fact and opinion

Composition

18. Recognize fragments and run-on sentences and be able to correct them
19. Divide a composition topic into main ideas
20. Brainstorm or cluster in order to gather ideas for writing
21. State the 5 W’s and 1 H questions and apply when generating ideas for composition
22. Arrange details sequentially in a time-order or space-order paragraph
23. Write a well-constructed paragraph with topic sentence, detail sentences, and conclusion
24. Locate and replace non-specific nouns
25. Identify “tired” adjectives and verbs and locate better word choices in a thesaurus
26. Re-write short, related sentences by using compound subjects and/or compound verbs
27. Vary sentence structure within a paragraph by using introductory phrases, complex sentences, and inverted word order
28. Identify sentences that are off-topic in a paragraph to correct a rambling style
29. Determine which reference material to consult for various types of information (dictionary, thesaurus, grammar handbook)
30. Write a space-order descriptive paragraph
31. Write a personal experience narrative in time order
32. Write a summary of a short story
33. Write an original tall tale incorporating the literary devices of setting, character, exaggeration, dialogue, simile and plot
34. Write a contrast paper of at least three paragraphs
35. Write a book report summary using correct grammar and mechanics
36. Write a letter of appreciation
37. Write a friendly letter in proper form
38. Compose open-ended questions for an interview situation
39. Proofread his composition and make corrections using proofreading symbols

Grammar, Usage and Mechanics

40. Define each of the eight parts of speech
41. Write at least 15 prepositions from memory
42. State if a pronoun is: personal, possessive, interrogative, or demonstrative
43. Classify words in a sentence as: noun, adjective, pronoun, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction, interjection
44. Determine the function of a word in a given sentence (subject, predicate, object, modifier)
45. Classify verbs as action, helping, or linking
46. Memorize all the linking verbs
47. Diagram all the words in a simple sentence (including compound subject or verb)

48. State whether a group of words is a clause or a phrase
49. Classify clauses as independent or dependent (subordinate)
50. Write complex sentences using subordinate conjunctions
51. Choose correct forms of comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs
52. Recognize and correct double comparisons (I feel more better today) and double negatives (hardly never)
53. Write possessive pronouns correctly (no apostrophe)
54. Name the antecedent of a pronoun in a sentence
55. State punctuation and capitalization rules and apply them correctly in writing and proofreading

Oral Reading and Expression

56. Participate in literature discussions (1) listening courteously and attentively to the comments of others and (2) contributing own comments
57. Recite a poem of at least 12 lines
58. Give an oral evaluation of a book
59. Read dialogue aloud with expression and clarity

Spelling and Vocabulary

60. Write weekly spelling words from dictation
61. Write definitions and sentences for weekly vocabulary words
62. Choose vocabulary words from a list to complete sentences
63. Apply knowledge of Greek and Latin roots and prefixes in understanding meanings of unfamiliar words on vocabulary list

Presentation Methods:

- Lecture
- Videos
- Drills
- Games
- Board work
- Reading
- Question & Answer

Evaluation and Grading Methods:

- Worksheets
- Textbook Assignments
- Tests
- Participation in discussions
- Literature notebook
- Journal and class notes
- Classroom observation

Enrichment Resources or Special Activities:

- Videos
- Word games
- Spelling and vocabulary bees

- Grammar websites
- Internet research
- Dramatic readings (from poetry or plays)