

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts with Mrs. Steffen

**Description:** We will focus on developing students' reading comprehension and writing skills through challenging texts and energizing writing topics. We will read a wide variety of literature, including short stories, essays, novels, and informational text. As a class and as individuals, we will sift through the texts, learning the author's intention and how the writing influences us as readers. We will learn specifically how to write using one's voice and to narrow the topic by keeping one's writing organized and selective. Students will create several different types of writing pieces, from narratives to research papers.

### **Example Curriculum Units:** (not exhaustive)

- **Narrative Unit:** focuses on plot, character development, point of view, and concrete verses abstract language
  - Reading: children's literature; "The Lie" by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.
  - Writing: Memoir
- **A Father's Promise Unit:** focuses on WWII in Poland, theme, mood, making inferences, and answering questions about death and suffering from a biblical perspective
  - Reading: novel, *A Father's Promise*
  - Writing: response to literature essay focused on character
- **Poetry Unit:** (a personal favorite:)) focuses on reading and comprehending grade-level poetry, types of poetry, theme, mood, author's purpose, rhyme, rhythm, irony, figurative language, imagery
  - Reading: several poems from a variety of genres
  - Writing: haiku, limerick, quatrain, narrative poem, free verse
  - Presentation: Song assignment
- **Project-Based Learning Unit:** this is a group project where students learn the skills of collaboration and critical thinking to answer the driving question: Why do I buy what I buy?
  - Reading: online articles, informational text
  - Writing: notes and outlines for presentation
- **Where the Lilies Bloom Unit:** focuses on life lessons learned through rites of passage and growing up; there is a great emphasis on understanding a more complex text and vocabulary in this unit. It's an awesome book!
  - Reading: the novel
  - Writing: Journals, research paper (more on this to come!)
  - Collaboration: literature circles
- **No Promises in the Wind:** another great novel set in the Great Depression; unit focuses on understanding human behavior in a variety of settings, including a study of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.
  - Reading: the novel
  - Writing: journals, argumentative essay

*Looking forward to a great year! Mrs. Steffen*