



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Classroom Syllabus Mrs. Sawyer

### **First Nine Weeks:**

Central to this unit is the study of fiction, poetry, and informational texts. During this unit, students will discuss their summer reading novels and read a number of poems by various authors of note, along with a unit of study for fiction focusing on plot, character dialect, and point-of-view. Students will employ a variety of strategies designed to foster deeper reading and analysis of the texts they read, with a particular emphasis on poetic techniques, figurative language, and stylistic elements. Students employ a variety of strategies designed to foster deeper reading and analysis of both literary and expository texts. Additionally, students write to share information and their perspectives, create imaginative stories and poems, and to respond to what they have read using stylistically sophisticated sentence structures and explore the use of these structures in their own writing using mentor texts as a guide.

#### **1. Summer Reading:**

*Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick  
Student's Book of Choice Project

#### **2. Unit 1A: Analyzing Fiction and Poetry**

Novel Study: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain (excerpts only)

#### **3. Personal Narrative Writing**

Novel Study: *House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros (excerpts only)

#### **4. Student-selected novels for Literature Circles or Reading Conferences**

#### **5. Unit 1B: Analyzing Informational Text**

Looking into text structures, text features, and analyzing expository text

### **Second Nine Weeks:**

Students will employ a variety of strategies designed to foster deeper reading and analysis of informational, persuasive, and literary nonfiction texts with a particular emphasis on the different themes and organizational structures. Students will also read and study the elements of drama—

dialogue, stage directions and other features, such as scenery, props, and sound effects. Informational texts connected to the subjects/themes found in the novel will be studied, as well.

- 1. Unit 2A: Producing Informational Text**  
Expository Essay Writing
- 2. Unit 2B: Analyzing Persuasive Text and Media**  
Persuasive Techniques used in writing, media, and advertising  
Persuasive Essay Writing
- 3. Unit 2C: Analyzing Literary Nonfiction and Drama**  
Exploring Literary Nonfiction and comparing it to Expository & Fiction text  
Understanding the basics of reading a Literary Drama

### **Third Nine Weeks:**

This unit will begin making connections across literary texts, with a focus on myths and legends and the students' written analyses of these readings. After making connections among literary texts, including poetry, students will begin a three-week study of informational texts on topics related to the literary readings. Upon the completing the informational text connections, the final three weeks will incorporate making connections between all genres.

- 1. Unit 3A: Analyzing Connections Across Literary Texts**  
Comparing and contrasting two or more texts from various literary genres
- 2. Unit 3B: Analyzing Connections Across Informational Texts**  
Comparing and contrasting two or more texts from within the expository genre
- 3. Unit 3C: Analyzing Connections Across All Genres Part 1**  
Students will read, analyze, and evaluate works from all genres
- 4. Personal Narrative Essay Writing**
- 5. STAAR Review**  
Students will briefly cover learned content to prepare them for state assessment

### **Fourth Nine Weeks:**

Students will reflect on the types of nonfiction, such as letters and journals, biographies and autobiographies, media accounts, and essays of all types. During this unit, students will read a number of pieces by various authors of note. Students will employ a variety of strategies designed to foster deeper reading and analysis of this literature.

- 1. Unit 4A: Analyzing Connections Across All Genres Part 2**  
Students will continue to evaluate literature from across all genres  
Literature Circles with a student-selected book of choice
- 2. Unit 4B: Producing Research**  
Students will engage in a meaningful study on a teacher-selected topic using technology and library resources  
Students will learn the basics of a research paper, including (but not limited to) primary and secondary sources, source citation, reliable researching
- 3. Expository Essay Writing**