

GRADE 6

Pa a d ca a m dd c cc d c b
a d a d c d ab a b d a c
a d a d a ac a d a d b
cc acad m ca
B a a a b a a d ca a c d
d a d b ab d b d ac ad a d d c
c c d a d ac



Throughout the school year, 6th grade students will spend the most time working on the following topics. They should understand them well by the end of the year.

Reading, writing, speaking, and listening:

- Reading grade level texts smoothly and with expression, at a fluency rate of around 110-160 words per minute by the end of the year.
- Asking and answering questions about stories and texts read independently. Summarizing what happened in what was read and citing specific evidence to show how they know. Questioning the author's or speaker's assumptions. Determining the accuracy of statements they have heard or read.
- Analyzing the author's specific word choice to understand how it impacts the meaning or tone of the text. Determining or clarifying the meaning of unknown words, **synonyms**, **antonyms**, and **figures of speech** (for example, "cause and effect," "part and whole," "item and category"). Determining or clarifying the meaning of words with similar, but not identical, meanings (for example, "stingy," "scrimping," "economical," "thrifty"). This can be done based on how they are used in context, through word relationships, or by using tools like dictionaries or glossaries.
- Making and justifying a claim or line of argument in writing or discussion. Supporting claims with precise and relevant evidence from credible sources.
- Showing something new they have learned from a text or about a topic. This can be in any form – speaking and conversation, letters, journals, stories, diagrams, reports, or essays – and should include sufficient additional detail that fits the form they have chosen.
- Writing in response to text, including an introduction and **thesis statement**; examples that are linked, logically



MATHEMATICS





EDUCATION WORDS

Sometimes, you'll hear educators use a word that has a specific meaning in schools. Understanding those terms will help you speak the same language!

Absolute value

The distance a number is from zero. The symbol “|” is placed on either side of a number to mean absolute value, so we write $|-7| = 7$.

Antonyms

Antonyms are words that mean the opposite. “Big” and “little” are antonyms.

Coordinate plane

A coordinate plane (<https://www.splashlearn.com/math-vocabulary/geometry/coordinate-plane>) is a two-dimensional (<https://www.splashlearn.com/math-vocabulary/geometry/two-dimensional>) plane formed by the intersection of a vertical number line called y-axis and a horizontal number line called x-axis. These are perpendicular lines that intersect each other at zero, and this point is called the origin (<https://www.splashlearn.com/math-vocabulary/geometry/origin>).

Equivalent expressions

Equivalent expressions are expressions that work the same even though they look different. If two algebraic expressions are equivalent, then the two expressions have the same value when we plug in the same value(s) for the variable(s). For example, $2x + x + x$ is equivalent to $4x$.

Expression

Numbers, symbols, and operators (such as + and x) grouped together that show the value of something. For example, $y + 4$ is an expression, and $3 - x/2$ is also an expression.

Figures of speech

A figure of speech is a word or phrase meant to create meaning that is separate from the literal definition. A figure of speech might be used to describe, compare, exaggerate, or emphasize something to convey meaning.

Proportional relationships

A relationship between two varying quantities in which one quantity is a constant multiple of another quantity. For example, in an ant farm, the total number of legs is six times the total number of ants, so in an ant farm the number of legs is proportional to the number of ants.

Reading level

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TIPS FOR TALKING WITH TEACHERS

Literacy

- What are my 6th grader's strengths, and how do you use them in instruction?
- How do you select texts? Will my 6th grader see characters and topics that represent them, their background, and their identity? Will they learn new perspectives and about new and diverse characters through the texts you use in the classroom?
- What topics are 6th graders learning about through reading? What should my 6th grader be able to understand, write, and talk about as a result of what they have read? Topics in history? Topics in science?
- What opportunities does my 6th grader have to choose books that interest them? Are they limited to a specific **reading level** or encouraged to select texts based on their interest, topics under study, or to build their knowledge of the world? How are you supporting any reading needs they have both within grade level text and with texts that they read on their own?
- Is my 6th grader able to write in ways that show you they understand what they are reading and learning? Are they able to use evidence from the text, present their responses in detail, and write with sufficient depth? Do they use conventions (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) and grammar rules appropriately? If not, what challenges are they facing? How can I help?
- Is my 6th grader able to speak and listen in class discussions and conversations in ways that show you they understand what they are reading and learning? Do they use evidence from the text, present their responses in detail, and speak with sufficient depth? If not, what challenges are they facing?
- How can I support and encourage my 6th grader to build a strong relationship with you and take age-appropriate responsibility for their own learning?

Math

- What topics are 6th graders learning about in math this year?
- Ask for specific updates on how your 6th grader is progressing in their understanding of the key content of the grade.
- What should my 6th grader be able to understand and talk about as a result of what they have learned?
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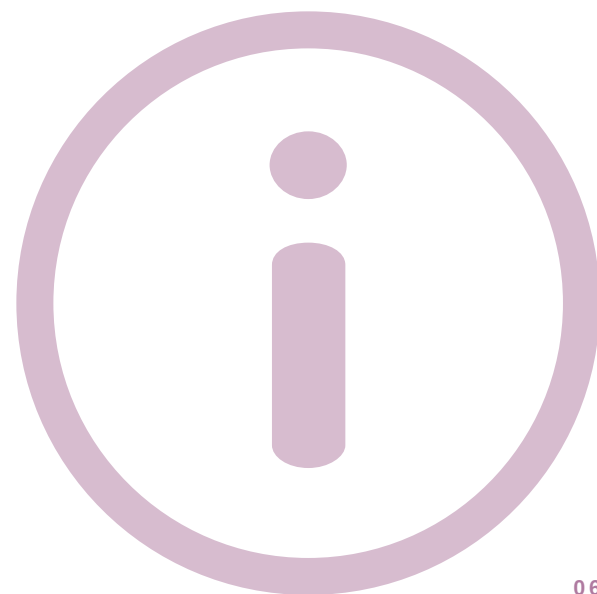


CONNECTING CLASSROOMS TO CAREERS



Helping middle schoolers see how what they are learning in school connects to their future is one of the best ways that families can support their kids. In addition to seeking out resources at school and in your community (community colleges are a great place to look), here are a few more ways to get started:

- Help your middle schooler think about what jobs they might like to have, and then learn more about the education and training they need for a career in that field.
<https://www.careerzone.ny.gov/views/careerzone/stem/index.jsf>
- Does your middle schooler like building and fixing things? Helping people? Learn more about how interests could lead to a career.
<https://www.bls.gov/k12/students/careers/career-exploration.htm>
- Have your middle schooler visit/“shadow” someone who works in a career in which they are interested. Here are some virtual site visits to get started.
<https://www.nebraskacareerclusters.com/>
- Has your middle schooler expressed interest in a career in the military? Explore military careers here.
<https://www.asvabprogram.com/>
<https://www.careersinthemilitary.com/home>
- Find a pathway to success: A guide to help students learn how to translate their interests into one of 16 career clusters.
<https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/career-and-technical-education/career-guidance/career-cluster-guides/>
- Learn the importance of math for careers and jobs: What teens need to know and how parents can help.
<https://www.niu.edu/mathmatters/careers-jobs/index.shtml>
- Are there colleges your middle schooler has expressed interest in attending? Together, check out their admissions requirements, including their course-taking requirements. Make sure your student is prepared for (mostly in middle school) and taking (mostly in high school) the classes they need not just to graduate from high school but to be eligible for college admission.





TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO HELP

Literacy

Sources of fiction text for reading and writing:

- Great Short Stories to Teach in Middle School
<https://www.weareteachers.com/best-short-stories-for-middle-schoolers/>
- Must Share Poems for Middle and High School
<https://www.weareteachers.com/24-must-share-poems-for-middle-school-and-high-school/>

Sources of non-fiction text for reading, writing, and research:

- The New York Times Learning Network
<https://www.nytimes.com/section/learning>
- Dogo News
<https://www.dogonews.com/grade/grades-6-8>
- PBS NewsHour Extra: Student Voices
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/student-voices/>

More tools:

- Text sets to learn about any subject
<https://achievethecore.org/content/upload/Text%20Set%20Guidance.pdf>
- Passages to help build fluency
<https://achievethecore.org/page/887/fluency-packet-for-the-6-8-grade-band>



Math

- Parent roadmap: What should children be learning in 6th Grade? How can families support their learning?
<https://www.cgcs.org/Page/244>
- Videos and tutorials to help 6th graders understand and practice writing **expressions** with variables