

# GRADE 6 ELA UPDATE

"The art of communication is the language of leadership." - James Humes

December 2017

## DECEMBER'S CLASSROOM FOCUS

The end of 2017 is upon us, and for the month of December, our sixth graders will look at how different authors use word choice to suit a planned purpose. It is important for our students to understand that language is powerful, and similar words can relay very different messages. For instance, calling a home a "mansion" or a "shack" imparts two very different ideas. Students will examine

language not only in text, but also as they use it in their everyday lives.

Our learners will also examine different texts that focus on the character of a grandfather, but each piece entails a very different theme. Through Tolstoy's short story and Silverstein's and Cisneros' poetry, students will analyze the relationship each grandparent has with his or her family based on the

content of the text and the word choice of the writer. Our students will also learn about the components of poetry and how word choice, figurative language, and poetic structure all contribute to a poem's meaning.



## EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME

Middle school is a time that many kids begin to explore their independence. Sometimes it is in the clothes they wear, a new hairstyle they sport, or the language they choose to use.

Using language purposefully is a powerful skill that will assist students into their

college and career years. You and your child can look at how language is used in our every day lives, from the television, to social media, to the play ground. It is important for parents to communicate with their youth how the words we choose to use can

build someone up or tear someone down. While teachers will be assisting our students in looking at language from a writer's perspective, you are the best person to assist your child in looking at the impact of words from a social perspective.

### Reading Recommendations

<i>The Ruins of Gorlan</i> <i>The Ranger's Apprentice #1</i> by John Flanagan	Gr 6
<i>Courage for Beginners</i> by Karen Harrington	Gr 7
<i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak	Gr 8

### \*December: MA ELA State Standards

- RL.6.4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices, including those that create repeated sounds and rhythms in poetry, on meaning, tone, or mood
- RL.6.9. Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.
- W.6.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, interpretation, reflection, and research, applying one or more grade 6 standards for Reading Literature or Reading Informational Text as needed.

\*Other ELA/Reading standards are addressed during the month of December as well.

If you have any questions about WPS' ELA/Reading Curriculum, please contact Chris Tolpa, Supervisor of Humanities:

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