

Thomas J. Waters Elementary  
2015-2016 School Year  
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## 6TH GRADE Reading Syllabus

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**Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift." — Kate DiCamillo**

Welcome to 6th grade reading. This year our class will consist of a blend of whole class lessons, small group meetings and individual reading time. During our whole class lessons we will cover topics such as literary devices, reading strategies, academic vocabulary, critical examination of media, and literary elements. Through small group meetings and literature circles students will read, analyze and discuss texts that are tailored to meet their unique literacy needs. Lastly in order to foster a culture of lifelong learners, who are empowered by independence, students will spend time independently reading and enjoying texts of their own choosing.

We will start the year off by reading the book *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. While reading this text we will be introducing/establishing classroom norms and routines, as well as setting expectations for the high quality work which will be completed throughout the course.

### Essential Skills For 6th Grade Readers

- Cite evidence and draw inferences
- Determine the themes or central ideas
- Provide a summaries
- Describe elements of plot and how characters change
- Articulate meanings of words and phrases
- Analyze structure of text
- Contrast texts from audio and video clips
- Compare Genres
- Determine author's point of view
- Draw conclusions to see if claims are supported by evidence

### Classroom Assignments

Classroom assignments will make up 50% of the student's graded coursework, which means that attendance is very important. Each student will be responsible for participating in classroom discussions, reading the required materials, taking notes and completing required tasks.

## **Assessments**

Biweekly quizzes will make up 15% of the student's required coursework. Quizzes will be given on Fridays and will be based off of classroom lessons, homework and discussions. Students should review their notes, as well as any class handouts, to study for these quizzes.

## **Tests and Projects**

Tests and projects will make up 25% of the student's grade. Tests will be given quarterly and will be a review of all topics covered in class. There will also be one required project per quarter, which will be worked on both in and out of class.

## **Homework**

Homework will be count towards 10% of the student's required coursework. Students will be responsible for reading and responding to what they have read in their Reading Response Journals. The texts will be self selected and the responses should be insightful and well thought out. There will be three required entries per week and they will be collected biweekly.

## **Grading**

- 100-90 = A
- 89-80 = B
- 79-70 = C
- 69-60 = D
- 59 or below = F

## **Academic Misconduct and Late Work**

Cheating is taken very seriously. If a student is caught cheating, they will not receive a passing grade on the assignment/assessment.

Work not completed and turned in by the assigned due date is considered late. Late work will be deducted 10% for each day past the due date. If a student is absent they should pick up any class handouts from the "Extras" folder and copy any notes they missed from a classmate. Students will be given the number of days that they are absent to make up any missing work.

## **Think Sheets**

A think sheet will be sent home if a student forgets their homework, is misbehaving or is unprepared for class. This sheet should be signed by a parent and returned the following day.

1. Warning: the teacher provides a verbal reprimand/reminder
2. Lunch Detention: short time spent during lunch to contemplate conduct
3. Referral to Administration: a student will be immediately referred to administration for severe behavior problems