

Literacy For Families

You Are Your Child's First Teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Washington's academic standards and why they are important to your child. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



6

Sixth Grade

In sixth grade, students explore more challenging texts across genres (text formats and styles) in print and digital formats. They read across content areas and master complex vocabulary that is specific to subject areas. Sixth-graders use their literacy skills to complete research projects and presentations, communicate verbal and written arguments, share information, and present narratives (both real and imagined).



Below is a snapshot of what your student will learn about literacy this year and how you can support them in school and at home.

What Sixth-Graders Learn and Do



Read and analyze a wide range of texts, including poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction, to understand themselves and the world around them.



Improve their language skills to speak and write clearly and to understand more challenging material when reading, listening, or viewing.



Write different types of texts (such as essays, stories, and reports) and incorporate images or digital elements to express their ideas more effectively.



Search for information from a variety of sources. Consider the reliability, purpose, and impact of messages from different types of media (such as news or social media).

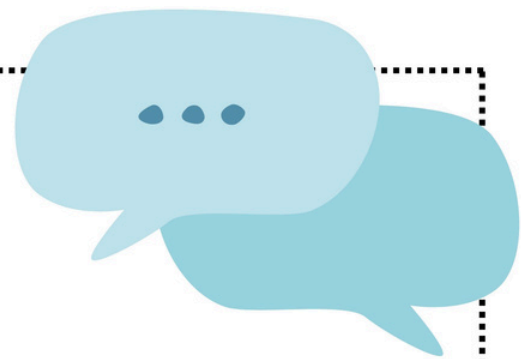


Communicate clearly and listen to others in discussions, presentations, and public speaking, both in person and online.



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

How to Support Sixth-Graders with Literacy



Promote Literacy at Home

- Find a video, podcast, or news clip of someone presenting. Identify and discuss the features of the presentation (such as voice, posture, word choice), then have your student create their own presentation with some of the features you identified. Ask them to tell you the speaker's main points (*Was the speaker trying to convince the audience of something? How?*).
- Encourage your student to practice written communication by writing letters, note cards, or emails to others.
- Pick topics of interest to explore with your student. Read books, articles, podcasts, and videos on that topic, then share what you learn with friends and family.

Talk with Your Student

- Encourage your student to pick a book to read daily for fun. Ask them to summarize what they read and share their opinions and ideas.
- When your student reads a book, ask them what questions they would like to ask the author. Ask your student why they think the author used certain words or character actions and how those choices impact the meaning of the text.
- Find opportunities that fit your family's routines to help your student access books—whether through school, local libraries, digital apps, or shared books within your community.
- Help your student identify their strengths in English language Arts (ELA) and areas where they feel confident. Encourage your student to share ideas, questions, and strategies they use in their ELA class.

Partner with the School

- Ask your student's ELA teacher what students are learning in class. Share how it connects to your student's home life, community, and future goals.
- Communicate your student's strengths and interests to the teacher.
- Ask how students work with others to support learning.
- Ask the teacher how you, the teacher, and your student can work together to improve your student's literacy skills.
- If you have questions, or if your student needs extra help or is new to learning English, talk to your student's teacher, multilingual learner specialist, or individualized education program (IEP) team (if applicable).

