

Onekama  
Middle  
School

# Sixth Grade English

## COURSE OVERVIEW

Teacher: Megan McCarthy  
Room 300  
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Welcome to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade English!

I am excited to begin our year together exploring quality literature and working to grow as readers, writers and thinkers.

I will work to make our lessons meaningful and relevant. In return, I expect students to come to class prepared and alert, and to keep up with assignments.

During class, our time will be spent in Reading and Writing Workshop. We will read poetry, short stories, novels and nonfiction. We will read closely and critically and learn to read “beyond” the words on the page. Students will keep a **Reader’s Notebook** and a **Writer’s Notebook**; these interactive notebooks will serve as our course textbooks. Students will be expected to keep notebooks up-to-date and will be graded regularly on their daily work.

Students will work to develop themselves as writers. Our work each day will help students find and express their writing “voice” through regular writing time and conferencing with the teacher and peers. Students will learn and practice standard conventions and grammar so that their writing makes sense to the world. We will write with meaning and purpose, and we will write for real-world audiences.

I welcome input always from students and parents in how I can best meet the needs of each learner. My door is always open.

### READING

Selection of Short Stories and Poetry

Novels:

The Cay by Theodore Taylor

Wonder by R. J. Palacio

& an Author Study based on the following novels:

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

Loser by Jerry Spinelli

### WRITING

*Students will write daily, both informally (stating opinions, making connections, reflecting) as well as completing the following structured assignments:*

Personal Narrative, Literary Essay,  
Informational Essay, Argument Paragraph,  
Original Poetry, Book Review

### ARTICLE OF THE WEEK

Students will read a nonfiction article each week and respond in writing. We will use these articles to practice close reading strategies. AoW assignments are due on Fridays.

### MOODLE

Check out our Moodle page (from link on the Onekama School website) for updates on class events, and to download assignments if originals are misplaced.