

6th Grade Language Arts
Miss Smith and Mr. Deree
Syllabus 2011-2012

Welcome to 6th grade Language Arts. I expect that each student in my classroom will give his or her best effort. We will be reading multiple novels while working on grammar, vocabulary, and writing. I will expect that you complete your assignments and that you communicate with me if you need assistance. I am here to help you in any way I can. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any problems, questions, or concerns.

I request that both students and parents sign and return the last page of this letter indicating that you have read the procedures and agree to cooperate with them.

Elizabeth Smith
ElizabethSmith@ssas.org
(941) 330-1855 ext. 121

James Deree
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Textbooks, Novels and Films:

Some novels and films may have mature content with themes relevant for our students. Please feel free to pre-view the material.

The textbooks that we will use include the following:

📖 *Holt: Elements of Literature, Introductory Course.*

Online Version: <http://my.hrw.com/>

Username: dereejames Password: ssastigers

📖 *Prentice Hall Writing and Grammar, Communication in Action, Copper Edition*

The novels that we will read may include the following:

📖 *The Giver* by Lois Lowry

📖 *The Cay* by Theodore Taylor

📖 *Loser* by Jerry Spinelli

📖 *King Arthur* by Roger Lancelyn Green

📖 Various Greek Mythology books including Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* and Scholastic's *Greek Gods and Monsters*

📖 Three additional choice novels for each quarter's book reports. Students may choose a book that is within the assigned genre for that quarter.

We try and keep interesting, readable novels on our shelves. Some novels may have mature situations or themes that you may not want your child reading. Please preview them! Please keep in mind that it is the parent/guardians responsibility to approve what the student checks out of the classroom library.

If a child checks out a book from the classroom library, he or she is to follow the procedure for checking out novels. Please see the check out sample at the end of the syllabus. Students are responsible for the novels, and any missing novels will be charged to the student that checked them out.

L.A. Films for 6th grade: *The Cay*

Supplies

- ✎ Two Spiral 3-Subject Notebook w/ perforated edges
 - ✎ Yellow Duo-Tang Folder w/pockets (One per quarter!)
 - ✎ Loose-leaf Notebook Paper
 - ✎ Pens (blue or black ink only)
 - ✎ Pencils/Pencil Sharpener
 - ✎ Colored pencils or markers
 - ✎ Two Highlighters
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Grading

Assignments have the following point values:

Tests and Book Reports

35%

All tests & major projects/book reports will be announced approximately one month in advance. If you are planning on being absent the day a project is due, **YOU MUST HAND IN THE PROJECT A DAY EARLY.** Any late projects will receive half credit. If a test is missed due to absenteeism, it will be made up the day the student returns to class. Major tests & quizzes that receive a failing grade will require parent/guardian signatures.

Quizzes

30%

Expect quizzes on materials covered in class. Students should go over their notes nightly to prepare for unannounced pop quizzes. Students must make up all missed quizzes on the following Friday or at lunch. If a student is absent and misses a quiz, he or she will also be expected to make up the day they return, unless special circumstances apply.

HOMEWORK/CLASSWORK

30%

All homework **MUST** be neat and on loose-leaf paper. **NO SPIRAL NOTEBOOK EDGES PLEASE!!** All homework assignments must be completed in blue or black pen, unless otherwise specified. Late homework will be accepted within a reasonable time frame, subject to a grade reduction. Each student will keep notes in his or her notebook. Notes are an important part of this class, and I will be checking your notebooks periodically to make sure you are completing them as they are assigned.

Bell Work

5%

Each class period will begin with Bell Work, which will be posted clearly on the board. Students must begin Bell Work immediately after writing homework assignments in the Agenda.

Grade Book Translation:

E= Exempt- You do not have to make it up.

X= Absent or Unfinished- MUST be made up, or will turn to an "F" / ZERO at the end of the quarter.

Students should **keep everything** handed back for the entire quarter.

(Please feel free to check Edline on the school website for weekly updates).

If you are absent: You are responsible for all make-up work. You must ask. It is your responsibility.

You have the same number of days you were absent to make up work. (Ex. 2 days absent = 2 days to make up). It is your responsibility to check the assignment calendar and/or ask your study buddy to see what you missed.

All major assignment/projects that are assigned at least 3 weeks in advance MUST BE TURNED IN ON THE DUE DATE, EVEN IF YOU ARE ABSENT THAT DAY!!! If you know you are going to be absent, you must turn the project/assignment in EARLY.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

1. Take care of your business before class (drinks/restrooms). Passes will only be issued for emergency situations.
2. Bring **two** (working) writing instruments—don't disrupt class to sharpen pencils!
3. Enter classroom quietly and sit in assigned seat.
4. Write homework in Agenda.
5. Begin Bell Work immediately.
6. Wait for further instructions from teacher.
7. If you finish work early:
 - work on another assignment or
 - read a book quietly.
8. Teacher dismisses you at the end of the period, not the bell!

RULES

1. Respect teacher, other students, and classroom equipment
2. Follow directions the **FIRST** time they are given

3. Remain in your seat at all times unless given permission to get up
4. Remain quiet during class unless given permission to speak - voices should always stay at a low volume
5. Bring all books and materials to class
6. Come to class ready to work and with a good attitude

CONSEQUENCES

- First Offense: The Look or Verbal warning
- Second Offense: You owe me a handwritten copy of the classroom rules.
- Third Offense: You owe me an essay with a parent signature.
- Fourth offense: Morning Detention!
- Fifth offense: County referral.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT STEPS CAN BE OMITTED IF AN OFFENSE IS SEVERE ENOUGH!

Other Expectations/Procedures:

Quieting the class: Students will observe the "Give Me Five" procedure. Teacher will stand in front of the class with hand raised. Students will focus on teacher and follow the 5 steps:

1. Eyes on speaker
2. Quiet
3. Be still
4. Hands free (put things down)
5. Listen

Assignments: All assignments and homework will be posted with a due date on the Homework/Assignment Board in the classroom. Students are responsible for checking this board daily and writing assignments in their agenda book. Papers handed in without names and numbers will be discarded. Even if your child does not have assigned homework, he or she should spend at least 10-20 minutes a night reviewing the concepts and vocabulary taught in class that day, or 20-30 minutes reading their book report novel.

Team News: Please keep in mind that you should check www.ssas.org for the weekly Team News. While I try and keep everything as up to date as possible, there are instances where the schedule may be off. **Please note that your child will/should change their agenda if this occurs.** Team News is subject to change, but it is an invaluable tool that you should use to keep up to date with your child's LA class.

Text Books: SSA+S prefers that you use the online text book. Should you need a hard back text book, they are available via parent request. We also have text books on CD-Rom. Should your child check out a text book/ CD-ROM and misplace or lose it, you will be held responsible for the replacement cost.

Bathroom: Students should use the restroom before or after class EXCEPT for emergencies. If a bathroom pass is needed, student must fill out Agenda and bring it to the teacher. The student is also responsible for signing out in the binder by the door.

Tardy: Students will be marked tardy if they are not **in their seats, working** when the bell rings. Being tardy to class four or more times equals an automatic detention.

Donations: Donations for the classroom are always welcome! These can include used/new novels, markers, colored pencils, construction paper, Sunday comics, magazines (for creative projects), etc. Please see Edline for the teacher wish list.

Contacting the teacher: I can be contacted at the following email address: Elizabeth Smith: ElizabethSmith@ssas.org or James Deree: JamesDeree@ssas.org I try to answer emails within 24 hours. If you email me on the weekend, please do not be alarmed if you do not hear back from me until Monday. I would greatly appreciate an email within the first week of school so that I have your contact information handy. Please email me as soon as possible with your student's name and period in the subject line.

Paper Heading Example:

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First Name Last Name Student Number Class Period Date Quarter

Any papers handed in without names and numbers will be promptly discarded!

	Joe Student #15 P.4 8/19/2011 Q.1
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SAMPLE

(Please read carefully)

BEHAVIOR CONTRACT SHEET

SSA+S

Directions: Take home to complete.

Parent signature is required.

Due the next school day--no exceptions!

Failure to complete will result in a detention EVERY day until turned in completed with parent signature!

I _____ (insert your name) understand that my behaviors were not appropriate in class today.

These behaviors include:

- 1) I will take responsibility for the way I act toward others and the way I behave in class.
_____ (initials)
- 2) I would like to prevent the behaviors that may get me into trouble. _____ (initial)

I will replace my bad behaviors with the following good behaviors:

As a **consequence** for inappropriate behavior, *the student must write an essay (minimum of one page, on a separate sheet of notebook paper) addressing the following questions:*

- 1) What did I do that was inappropriate?
- 2) Why is that behavior inappropriate?
- 3) What should my consequence be?
- 4) What can I do differently next time?
- 5) What will happen in the future if I choose not to act appropriately?

The essay must be legible, and it must be signed and dated by the student. Parent signature on this sheet is also necessary.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

SAMPLE

Library Book Check Out Page

YOUR NAME: _____

Period in LA/TEACHER _____

Today's Date: _____

Information about the book: (All located on the front label)

Title _____

Author: _____

Classroom Library Book Number: _____

ISBN _____

Price of the book \$ _____

By checking this book out, you agree to take care of it, and return it in the same condition. If the novel is lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed, you agree to pay the cost to replace it.

When you return the novel, please throw this page away.

Name _____ Period _____

**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS ENTIRE PAGE TO CLASS ALONG WITH
THE MOVIE AND NOVEL PERMISSION SLIP.**

DUE _____

<p><input type="checkbox"/> Please send a <u>HARD COVER TEXT BOOK</u> home with my child. The replacement cost is \$78.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Please send a <u>CD-ROM TEXT BOOK</u> home with my child. The replacement cost is \$15.00</p>

I look forward to an exciting year with all of you!

Please fill out the following page and turn it in by Friday.

I have read Miss Smith and Mr. Deree's rules and expectations and agree to cooperate with them. I understand that if I choose to break a rule, there will be consequences.

Student

Date

I have read Miss Smith and Mr. Deree's rules and expectations and agree to support them.

Parent Name

Date

Parent Signature

Phone

Reminder-

Please email ElizabethSmith@ssas.org or JamesDeree@ssas.org with your child's name and LA period in the subject line!