

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**  
**SIXTH GRADE**  
**LANGUAGE ARTS**

**Philosophy Statement:** God is the supreme communicator. He spoke the world into existence and uses many forms to communicate His goodness and truth to us. Language arts reflects our recognition that God wants us to communicate with Him and others by being proficient in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

**Objectives:** Using various short stories and novels, students will develop and awareness of basic literary elements and comprehension strategies. In writing and grammar, students will develop and grow in the skills of the 6+1 Writing Traits (Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions, and Presentation). Students will also learn to use and recognize patterns and rules in spelling.

**Textbook:** HSP California Excursions – Across the Horizon - Student Edition (Harcourt)  
Easy Grammar Grade 6 (Easy Grammar Systems)

**Resources:** HSP California Excursions  
Harcourt: Challenge Book Packs Collection  
Teacher Resource Book  
Leveled Readers and Response Activities  
California Theme Progress-Monitoring Assessments  
California Entry-Level and Summative Assessments  
Student Workbooks

- Grammar Practice Book
- Spelling Practice Book
- Practice Book
- Bold Moves
- Easy Grammar Grade 6

**Novels:** The Witch of Blackbird Pond  
The Bronze Bow  
Dragonwings

**Audio:** Where the Red Fern Grows

**Materials:** Binder  
Composition Book for journaling  
Index cards and rings for vocabulary  
Reading Logs

**Time Allotment:** 100 minutes per day, 4 days per week  
60 minutes for testing/assessment, Fridays

**Areas to be Evaluated:** Class & Homework Assignments/Workbook Practice  
 Writing Assignments/ Projects  
 Tests in Spelling, Vocabulary, Reading Fluency, Comprehension

**Additional Activities:** Essays, Journaling, Projects, Book reports, Reading Logs,  
 Vocabulary Cards, spelling activities, SSR, Poetry & and other  
 forms of creative expression.

**Course Content:**

**Reading**

**Writing**

**Grammar**

**Spelling**

***Theme 1: Personal Triumphs***

Plot and Setting Use Story structure Text structure Chronological order	Form: Narrative Composition, Personal letter, short story  Trait: Word Choice Voice	Kinds of Sentences Subjects/Predicates Compound Subjects/Predicates Simple and Compound sentences	Closed Syllable Patterns; short vowels/long vowels Vowel digraphs, vowel variants, diphthongs inflections <i>-ed, -ing</i>
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***Theme 2: Joining Forces***

Plot and Characters Main idea & details Summarize	Form: Realistic story, response to literature, skit, news story,  Trait: Ideas, Conventions	Prepositional Phrases Clauses and Phrases Complex Sentences compound-complex sentences, common and proper nouns	Words with Consonant plus <i>-le</i> Words with the VCCV Words with VCCCV Words with VCV Easily confused words
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***Theme 3: A Changing Planet***

Figurative Language Theme	Form: Descriptive Composition Summary How-to-essay  Trait: Sentence Fluency, Organization	Singular and Plural Nouns; Possessive Nouns; Subject and Object Pronouns, Possessive & relective Case Pronouns, Indefinite pronouns	Suffixes <i>-able, -ible, -ous, -eous,</i> Endings <i>/ən/, /əl/, ər/</i>
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***Theme 4: Unique Perspectives***

Point of View Make Judgments	Form: Journal Entry Autobiographical Narrative Letter of request Essay of Explanation  Trait: Voice, Sentence Fluency	Adjectives, Main and Helping Verbs, Action and Linking Verbs, Simple Tenses, Present Tense	Words from Spanish & French, Prefixes <i>im-, in-, ir-, il-</i> Suffixes <i>-ant, -ent, -ist,</i> Word parts <i>over, under, sub-</i>
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**Theme 5: Ancient Wisdom**

Compare and Contrast Literary Devices	Form: Compare and Contrast Compositions Essay of Explanation Descriptive Essay  Trait: Ideas, Conventions	Simple Tenses: past and future Principal Parts of Verbs, Regular and Irregular Verbs, Perfect Tenses	Words with Greek and Latin word parts – body language, math, & social studies Words Parts <i>-ation, -ition, -ion;</i>
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**Theme 6: The Outer Limits**

Draw and evaluate conclusions Characterizations	Form: Persuasive composition and letter  Trait: Organization, Word Choice	Progressive forms, contractions, adverbs, quotation marks and colons	Prefix + Base; Word + Suffix; Words with root + root; silent letters; related words; unusual plurals
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