

# ROSLYN MIDDLE SCHOOL

## ENGLISH 6

### I. General Goals for English in the Middle School

Students will:

- A. Strengthen comprehension and analytical reading skills.
- B. Study literary works chosen for their humanistic values and develop a sense of the dignity and integrity of the human spirit. Confront ethical and moral issues in literature and consider reasonable ways of approaching them.
- C. Utilize a process approach to write pieces which are characterized by logical thinking, creativity, and clarity.
- D. Develop speaking and listening skills.
  - 1. Use appropriate diction and enunciation.
  - 2. Classify what is being heard or spoken.
  - 3. Identify and relate appropriately to audience.
  - 4. Acquire confidence in oral communication.
- E. Increase vocabulary.
- F. Master skills in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling.
- G. Examine and apply research and study skills.
- H. Participate in interdisciplinary and authentic assessment projects.

### II. Aims/Objectives for English 6

The English 6 program will:

- A. Develop comprehension and analytical reading skills using both the literature studied in class and the supplementary reading materials.
- B. Examine grade-level literary works critically and aesthetically.
- C. Employ the process of prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing with both expository and creative pieces.
- D. Teach basic grammatical and usage concepts.
- E. Provide formal and informal situations for public speaking instruction through speeches, reports, and dramatic sketches.
- F. Reinforce English skills as part of team interdisciplinary projects.

### III. Content

#### A. Literature

1. The class will study novels from the following works:

<u><i>The Cay</i></u>	- Theodore Taylor
<u><i>Tangerine</i></u>	- Edward Bloor
<u><i>The Eyes of the Amaryllis</i></u>	- Natalie Babbitt
<u><i>Homeless Bird</i></u>	- Gloria Whelan
<u><i>Phantom Victory</i></u>	- Pamela Service
<u><i>Daniel's Story</i></u>	- Carol Matas
<u><i>Things Not Seen</i></u>	- Andrew Clements

2. Two collections of poetry are part of the grade 6 curriculum:  
***Talking to the Sun*** - ed. K. Koch and K. Farrell  
***Love That Dog*** - Sharon Creech
3. A collection of short story selections (***Joining Hands***) and a collection of myths are also part of the grade six curriculum.
4. Outside reading will be ongoing throughout the school year. Teachers will approve the novels, biographies, and non-fiction books which the students will read.

#### B. Composition

1. Writing selections will include personal narratives, creative writing, persuasive essays, exposition and description. Emphasis will be placed upon single and multi-paragraph essays.
2. Each student will maintain a writing folder.

#### C. Language

1. ***Holt Handbook*** will serve as the textbook for grammar and usage study.
2. Vocabulary work will be based on the contextual study of words taken from the literary works read throughout the year.

### IV. Expectations/Requirements

- A. Writing on a regular basis
- B. Periodic grammar/usage, spelling and vocabulary tests
- C. Book assessments and/or quizzes on literature studied in class and read independently
- D. Knowledge of research skills through orientation visits to the library and exercises in locating information
- E. Daily and long range homework assignments
- F. Interdisciplinary and authentic assessment projects
- G. Practice for ELA Assessment tests.

### V. Evaluation Systems

- A. Individual grades on essays, creative pieces, and other written assignments
- B. Announced and unannounced quizzes and tests
- C. Oral and/or written reports
- D. Participation in class discussion