

# **Boston Collegiate Charter School**

## **2010-2011**

### **Grade 6** **Reading**

#### Course Overview

The overall goal of the sixth grade curriculum is to build strong reading comprehension skills through exposure to a variety of texts. Students will read a diverse assortment of genres and titles including historical and realistic fiction, fantasy, myth, poetry, and nonfiction. Students will also investigate the different parts of a novel, including setting, theme, plot, and characters. Through class discussions and written assignments, the students will demonstrate an understanding of different literary terms and figurative language. They will also study vocabulary words and strategies through the literature that they read. Students will be expected to regularly complete reflective and analytical writing pieces on their reading, using supporting evidence from the text.

#### Primary Performance Standards

By the end of the year, students will be expected to be able to:

##### *Language*

- Pose questions, listen and contribute in group discussions, and make oral presentations that demonstrate appropriate consideration of audience, purpose, and the information being conveyed.
- Acquire and use correctly an advanced reading vocabulary of English words, identifying meanings through an understanding of word relationships.
- Identify, describe, and apply knowledge of the structure of the English language and standard English conventions for sentence structure, usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

##### *Literature*

- Identify the main ideas in what they have read, heard, or viewed.
- Identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of theme, other literary devices, senses, imagery, mood and tone in literature and poetry, and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.
- Identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of the structure and elements of fiction and non-fiction and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.

##### *Composition*

- Write compositions with a clear focus, logically related ideas to develop it, and adequate supporting detail.
- Improve organization, content, paragraph development, level of detail, style, tone, and word choice in revising their compositions.
- Use their knowledge in standard conventions for sentence structure, usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling to edit their writing.

## Assessment

- Written assignments including book reports, essays, reflections, paragraph writing, etc.
- Participation in large and small group discussions of literature
- Punctuality and quality of homework
- Vocabulary Quizzes and Tests
- Oral Reading
- Reading Comprehension Quizzes and Tests
- Art projects reflecting class literature, poetry, etc.
- Final projects
- Independent Reading

## Grading

Quarterly Grades will be weighted as follows:

- Homework: 20%
- Class work: 20%
- Major Assessments: 30%
- Minor Assessments: 30%

\*Other assessments will include, but are not limited to, book reports, writing projects, presentations, and quizzes (announced and otherwise).

\*A final exam will account for 5% of the final grade.

## Units/Texts

- **Unit #1:** Summer Reading: *Joey Pigza Loses Control* by Jack Gantos
- **Unit #2:** *Crash* by Jerry Spinelli
- **Unit #3:** *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman
- **Unit #4:** Poetry
- **Unit #5:** Readers' Workshop – *Lyddie* by Katherine Paterson, *Lily's Crossing* by Patricia Reilly Giff, and *The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare
- **Unit #6:** Traditional Literature
- **Unit #7:** *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse
- **Unit #8:** Readers' Workshop: *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor and *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis

**\*Students will also read a variety of nonfiction texts interspersed throughout the units.**

## Special Events

- The trip to the American Textile History Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts provides 6<sup>th</sup> graders with an opportunity to make connections between their experiences reading *Lyddie* to their experience at the museum. The exhibit includes original artifacts, tools, and machines used in the history of cloth production from the late 1700s through the 1950s. The students participate in various hands-on activities meant to immerse them in the historical period.
- The annual Boston Collegiate Charter School Book Fair allows students and their parents to purchase books for pleasure reading within the school building. This is also a substantial fund-raiser for the school's English department. A selection of summer reading books may be available at the book fair as a convenience for students and their families.

\* **Tutoring Hours:** This year, the Lower School has moved to a targeted tutoring program, designed to provide additional skill support to struggling students. **As a result, tutoring is by invitation only.** More information about this change will be coming soon.

## Contact

If you have any questions or concerns, or if there is anything that we can do to help your child become a better reader, please don't hesitate to contact either of us at the phone number or e-mail address below. Thank you for all that you do to educate your child!

Sincerely,

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Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_