

**Sixth Grade Literature
Average Class
Curriculum**

Texts: *McDougal Littell Literature*
 Classical and World Mythology (Nexttext)
 Catherine, Called Birdy (Cushman, Karen)
 Crash (Spinelli, Jerry)
 Loser (Spinelli, Jerry)
 Maniac Magee (Spinelli, Jerry)
 Stargirl (Spinelli, Jerry)
 Wringer (Spinelli, Jerry)

Course Outline

Unit 1: Short Stories

Key Ideas and Selections

Focus Standards

Boar Out There - Overview
Pages 28-29

stages of plot

- “Ant and the Grasshopper”

What do you fear most?
“The School Play”
Pages 30-39

plot
monitor understanding

What if your world changed?
“All Summer in a Day”
Pages 62-71

setting
making inferences

How powerful is loyalty?
“Lob’s Girl”
Pages 84-97

foreshadowing
sequence

Is age more than a number?
“Eleven”
Pages 182-189

point of view
connections

What makes a hero?
“Ghost of the Lagoon”
Pages 190-200

point of view
predictions

Can memories keep the past alive?
“Nadia the Willful”
Pages 336-344

conflict
theme
compare/contrast

Unit Assessment: Culminating unit test covering stages of plot and literary elements

Unit 2: Introduction to Poetry

Key Ideas and Selections

Appreciating Poetry – Overview
Pages 544-549

Why do we love sports?
“Analysis of Baseball”
“Alone in the Nets”
“Teen athletes”(article)
Pages 550-557

How do you see the world?
“Windshield Wiper”
“Night Journey”
Pages 580-586

When do attitudes need adjusting?
“I’m Nobody! Who are You?”
“Is the Moon Tired?”
“Moses”
Pages 594-600

When is food more than fuel?
“Good Hotdogs”
“Ode to an Artichoke”
Pages 608-620

Unit Assessment: Students will create an original poem incorporating literary elements learned in class. In addition, students will present two oral interpretations of existing poems.

Unit 3: Greek Mythology

Key Ideas and Selections

Teacher created power point presentation
Creation story

“Medusa’s Head” (Elements of Literature)

“Apollo’s Tree: The Story of Daphne and Apollo”
Pages 658-661

Oedipus (Nexttext)

Focus Standards

form and speaker
sound devices
imagery and figurative language

lines and stanzas
rhyme and rhythm
form

perspective
sound devices
form

attitude
figurative language
inferences

tone
imagery
set a purpose for reading

Focus Standards

cultural values in myths
characteristics of myths

Jason and the Argonauts (Nexttext)
The End of the Olympians (Nexttext)

Additional supplemental mythological selections:

Prometheus and the First Man
Arachne
Pandora's Box
Echo and Narcissus
Theseus and the Minotaur
Odysseus and the Cyclops
Flight of the Bird Man
Queen of the Dead
Journey to the Underworld
Phaeton's Wish

Unit Assessment: Reader's Theatre Presentation of Greek myth, God Microsoft project, and mythology unit test

Unit 4: Timeless Tales: Myths, Legends, and Tales

Key ideas and Selections

Why do we tell Stories?
Pages 638-645

"The Chenoo" (Native American Legend)
Pages 678-687

"Uncle Septimus's Beard" (Tall Tale)
Pages 698-707

"The Crane Maiden" (Japanese folk tale)
Pages 708-715

"Aunty Misery" (Puerto Rican folk tale)
Pages 716-720

"Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story"
(Chinese folk tale)
Pages 722-731

Focus Standards

prior knowledge
story qualities
genres of legend, tall tale, and folk tale

characteristics of legends
make inferences
homonyms and context clues

characteristics of tall tales
connotations/meaning
context clues

characteristics of folk tales
summarizing

comma usage
analyze and discuss visuals

universal theme
set a purpose for reading
analyze and discuss visuals

“Scotface: An Ojibwa Cinderella Story”
(Native American folk tale)
Pages 732-739

Unit Assessment: Once Upon a Time, the End project

Unit 5: Middle Ages

Catherine, Called Birdy

Unit Assessment: Assessed throughout using study guide questions, mini projects, and test over novel.

Unit 6: Nonfiction

Key Ideas and Selections

Focus Standards

Can you believe your eyes?
“Spellbinder: The Life of Harry
Houdini”
Pages 802-809

main ideas/details
chronological order

What builds confidence?
“The Jacket”
Pages 468-474

tone
connections

Are monsters real?
“SuperCroc”
Pages 846-853

text features
summary

- “Should Wild Animals be Kept as Pets?” p. 902

Can a game play you?
“What Video Games Can Teach Us”
“The Violent Side of Video Games”
Pages 890-896

argument
evaluate support

“Role-Playing and Discovery”
Pages 260-264
• “Invisible Hero” p. 265

Personal Essay
Identify Author’s purpose

“The First Skateboard in the History of the World”
Pages 480-488
• Skateboard Science p. 489

“The Problem with Bullies”
Pages 223-226

taking notes
developing questions

Unit Assessment: Nonfiction Performance Assessment

Unit 7: Literature Circles

Crash

Loser

Maniac Magee

Stargirl

Wringer

Unit Assessment: Student projects on novels read