

Poudre School District
LANGUAGE ARTS
ESSENTIAL STANDARDS for SIXTH GRADE

If no specific skills are listed under a benchmark, then skills are taught to mastery at another level.

STANDARD 1: READING

Students read and understand a variety of materials

1.1 BENCHMARK: COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Students will use a variety of comprehension skills in reading (e.g., preview, predict, compare and contrast, self-monitor, summarize)

- Paraphrase, summarize and synthesize information from a variety of texts & genres with support

1.2 BENCHMARK: PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Make connections between texts and prior knowledge and identify knowledge needed before reading about topic

- Make connections between texts and the world

1.3 BENCHMARK: READING PURPOSE

Adjust reading strategies for different purposes

- Determine reading purpose and use strategies appropriate to that purpose
- Use text structures (e.g., cause and effect, problem/solution and compare/contrast) to locate and recall information

1.4 BENCHMARK: WORD RECOGNITION STRATEGIES

Use a variety of word recognition skills and resources

- Locate definitions of unfamiliar words using dictionaries, glossaries and other sources

1.5 BENCHMARK: VOCABULARY

Use information from reading to increase vocabulary and enhance language usage

- Select appropriate definitions from the dictionary to determine appropriate word meaning

STANDARD 2: WRITING AND SPEAKING

Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences

2.1 BENCHMARK: GENRE

Students write and speak in a variety of genres

- Write multi-paragraphed texts
- Write creative texts (e.g., poetry, plays, short stories)

2.2 BENCHMARK: AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE

Write and speak for a variety of audiences and purposes

- Write and speak using techniques to engage an audience

2.3 BENCHMARK: WRITING PROCESS

Use the steps of the writing process (e.g., plan, draft, revise, edit, share)

- Revise drafts for varied sentence structure

2.4 BENCHMARK: DEVICES AND WORD CHOICE

Use a variety of devices (e.g., figure of speech, symbolism, dialect, vocabulary) to convey meaning

- Use alliteration, onomatopoeia and rhyme in writing

***Skills listed on this document should be mastered at the grade level where they appear.**

- 2.5 BENCHMARK: ORGANIZATION**
Use a variety of strategies to organize written and oral presentations (e.g., lists, outlining, cause/effect, comparison/contrast)
- Use transitions to link ideas between paragraphs
- 2.6 BENCHMARK: PRODUCT PRESENTATION**
Use appropriate strategies to publish writing
- Create polished, revised **products** in writing and in speaking

STANDARD 3: LANGUAGE STRUCTURE

Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization and spelling

- 3.1 BENCHMARK: GRAMMAR AND USAGE**
Use conventions of grammar and usage in writing and speaking
- Identify subjects, predicates, pronouns and adjectives accurately and explain the **purpose** of each
 - Identify homonyms and homophones
- 3.2 BENCHMARK: SENTENCE STRUCTURE**
Use correct sentence structure in writing
- Identify simple, compound and complex **sentences** with introductory and **dependent clauses**
- 3.3 BENCHMARK: PUNCTUATION**
Use conventions of punctuation in writing
- Use semi-colons correctly to create complex **sentences**
 - Use apostrophes correctly in plural possessives (students' notebooks)
- 3.4 BENCHMARK: CAPITALIZATION**
Use conventions of capitalization in writing
- Use capitalization correctly in outlines
- 3.5 BENCHMARK: SPELLING**
Use conventions of spelling in writing
- Identify incorrectly spelled age-appropriate words and use accurate spelling
 - Use resources to correctly spell plural forms

STANDARD 4: THINKING AND VIEWING

Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing

- 4.1 BENCHMARK: THINKING AND ANALYTICAL SKILLS**
Use thinking and analytical skills in writing, reading, speaking, listening and viewing
- Use details to support explanations of **texts**
- 4.2 BENCHMARK: PROBLEM SOLVING**
Use reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing to define and solve problems
- 4.3 BENCHMARK: OPINIONS**
Recognize, express and support opinions orally and in writing
- Form and express opinions in response to oral **texts**
- 4.4 BENCHMARK: AUTHOR'S POINT OF VIEW**
Know the purpose, perspective and historical and cultural influences of a speaker, author or director
- Compare authors' attitudes about the subject from a variety of **texts**

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4.5 BENCHMARK: EVALUATION

Use a variety of criteria to evaluate information (e.g. reliability, accuracy, relevancy)

- Use simple rubrics and checklists to assist in peer **editing**

STANDARD 5: RESEARCH

Students read to locate, select and make use of relevant information from a variety of media, reference and technological sources

5.1 BENCHMARK: RESOURCES

Understand the structure, organization and use of resources to gather information for research

- Locate information in **text** using chapter previews, summaries, prefaces, annotations, and appendices
- Gather information for research using encyclopedias, atlases, **nonfiction** books, and electronic media

5.2 BENCHMARK: ORGANIZATION OF INFORMATION

Use a variety of strategies to organize information

5.3 BENCHMARK: DOCUMENTATION

Document information sources

- Practice giving credit for others' work using a bibliography form

5.4 BENCHMARK: RESEARCH PRODUCTS

Communicate the results of research

- Organize information from various sources into simple outlines

STANDARD 6: LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience

6.1 BENCHMARK: LITERARY TERMINOLOGY

Recognize and use literary terminology

- Understand poetic devices, including alliteration, simile, onomatopoeia, and rhyme scheme
- Analyze characters, setting (time and place), problem/solution, and sequence in **fiction**

6.2 BENCHMARK: READING GENRES

Read a variety of literary and informational texts

- Read stories and magazine articles
- Know defining characteristics of **fiction, non-fiction**, autobiography, and poetry

6.3 BENCHMARK: CULTURE

Read to learn about culture

- Compare and contrast multiple stories and the ways in which those stories reflect the ethnic background of the author and the culture in which they were written

6.4 BENCHMARK: LITERARY ANALYSIS

Use a variety of strategies to understand and analyze text

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