



Welcome to blackbird & Company's language arts program!

After exploring and familiarizing yourself with all of the materials included in your 6th Grade Collection, it's time to map out the schedule of work for the year. We use "grade level" merely as a common reference point. Every student will fall individually across a range of levels in different subjects, and even within a single subject. Our materials are designed to be flexible for students and teachers, allowing for complete differentiation as needed. These elements can be staggered and/or spaced out in order to meet your particular needs, creating a varied and comprehensive learning experience that is best for your students.

As you look at your unique school schedule and students, be sure to block out any weeks that you will be off campus for holidays, field trips, in-service, testing or other activities. If your school adds in special days of crafts or activities surrounding holidays, be sure to take that into consideration as you look at each piece of curriculum and how it will best fit into your program with fluidity and continuity where required.

Things to Consider:

Literature & Writing Discovery requires 36 weeks to complete. This is core and needs to take precedence in scheduling.

Research: Significant People requires 20 weeks of work if all 4 units are completed. Each unit requires 5 weeks to complete and can stand alone. Learning how to research and write a biographical essay is an important skill. If you have the time, do all 4 in one year. If you feel it would be better to slow down the work, or stagger this concentrated work with other writing, you should schedule for fewer units to be completed over the year. These can be used over several years or can be utilized and assigned as summer work.

One True Sentence C2: Tools of Style 2 requires 20 weeks to complete but needs only 15-30 minutes per day, 5 days per week. The segments can be started around the 3rd week and can be done consecutively or broken up.

Operation Lexicon: Madeleine L'Engle requires 25 weeks of work to complete but needs only 15-30 minutes per day, 3 days per week. The segments can be done consecutively or broken up.

Introduction to Composition: The Essay requires 10 weeks to complete and needs around 2 hours per session if done twice per week. Each lesson is completed over two weeks time and can stand on its own. Individual lessons are not dependent on work previously completed. Weekly work does not have to be assigned on consecutive days.

Exploring Poetry requires 7 weeks to complete. You will need about two hours per section. We recommend a twice per week schedule that sets aside one hour per sitting. Work does not need to be assigned on consecutive days and can be scheduled throughout the year intermingled with other application materials for variety and fresh interest.

A Sentence a Day is done 2-3 days per week all year long. It takes no more than 15 minutes per day.



The following sample schedule is provided as a tool to help you as you lay out your curriculum schedule for the year. Please make adjustments to cater this to your particular circumstances. Utilize our subject specific information for more detailed scheduling notes and information.

Sample Weekly Schedule:

This mock schedule is mapped out for a 5 day per week program. This format can be easily adapted to a 4 day per week program by adjusting the daily workload and times. Our schedule assumes a 40 week school year with ample room for activities, holidays, and fun. We will jump weeks at times when a static schedule has been demonstrated and pick it up where a new element is added in to the schedule.

Week 1

Subject	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Literature & Writing #1: The Captain's Dog 45 Minutes/Day	Section 1 work	Section 1 work	Section 1 work	Section 1 work	Section 1 completion Section 2 reading
Research Significant People #1: Mahatma Gandhi 60-90 Minutes/Week	Section 1				
Operation Lexicon: Madeleine L'Engle 15-30 Minutes/Day		Week 1, Day 1	Week 1, Day 2	Week 1, Day 3	
A Sentence a Day 15 Minutes/Day		3 pages	2 pages		

Week 2

Subject	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Literature & Writing #1: The Captain's Dog 45 Minutes/Day	Section 1 discussion Section 2 work	Section 2 work. Section 5 brainstorm	Section 2 work	Section 2 work	Section 2 completion Section 3 reading Section 5 development
Research Significant People #1: Mahatma Gandhi 60-90 Minutes/Week	Section 2				
Operation Lexicon: Madeleine L'Engle 15-30 Minutes/Day		Week 2, Day 1	Week 2, Day 2	Week 2, Day 3	
A Sentence a Day 15 Minutes/Day		3 pages	2 pages		



Week 3

Subject	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Literature & Writing #1: The Captain's Dog 45 Minutes/Day	Section 2 discussion Section 3 work	Section 3 work	Section 3 work	Section 3 work	Section 3 completion Section 4 reading Section 5 development
Research Significant People #1: Mahatma Gandhi 60-90 Minutes/Week	Section 3				
Operation Lexicon: Madeleine L'Engle 15-30 Minutes/Day		Week 3, Day 1	Week 3, Day 2	Week 3, Day 3	
A Sentence a Day 15 Minutes/Day		3 pages	2 pages		

Week 4

Subject	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Literature & Writing #1: The Captain's Dog 45 Minutes/Day	Section 3 discussion Section 4 work	Section 4 work	Section 4 work	Section 4 work	Section 4 completion Section 5 work
Research Significant People #1: Mahatma Gandhi 60-90 Minutes/Week	Section 4				
Operation Lexicon: Madeleine L'Engle 15-30 Minutes/Day		Week 4, Day 1	Week 4, Day 2	Week 4, Day 3	
A Sentence a Day 15 Minutes/Day		3 pages	2 pages		



Week 5

Subject	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Literature & Writing #1: The Captain's Dog 45 Minutes/Day	Section 4 discussion Section 5 work	Section 5 work	Section 5 work	Section 5 completion	Section 5 present & submit
Research: Significant People #1: Mahatma Gandhi 60-90 Minutes/Week	Section 5 project development				
Operation Lexicon: Madeleine L'Engle 15-30 Minutes/Day		Week 5, Day 1	Week 5, Day 2	Week 5, Day 3	
One True Sentence C2: Tools of Style 2 15-30 Minutes/Day	Week 1, exercise 1-4	Week 1, exercise 5-7, practice 1	Week 1, practice 2-3	Week 1, practice 4-5	Week 1, edits, rewrites, or completion
A Sentence a Day 15 Minutes/Day		3 pages	2 pages		

Week 6

Subject	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Literature & Writing #2: The Liberation of Gabriel King 45 Minutes/Day	Section 1 reading for book 2	Section 1 reading for book 2			Catch-up or review as needed for book #1.
Research Significant People #1: Mahatma Gandhi 60-90 Minutes/Week	Section 5 present & submit				
Operation Lexicon: Madeleine L'Engle 15-30 Minutes/Day		Week 6, Day 1	Week 6, Day 2	Week 6, Day 3	
One True Sentence C2: Tools of Style 2 15-30 Minutes/Day	Week 2, exercise 1-4	Week 2, exercise 5-7, practice 1	Week 2, practice 2-3	Week 2, practice 4-5	Week 2, edits, rewrites, or completion
Introduction to Composition: The Essay - Volume 1 45 Minutes/Day			Lesson 1, pgs. 17-19 Thinking in 3s, pgs. 11-14	Lesson 1, pgs. 20-21 Thinking in 3s, pgs. 17-20	
A Sentence a Day 15 Minutes/Day		3 pages	2 pages		



Week 7

Subject	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Literature & Writing #2: The Liberation of Gabriel King 45 Minutes/Day	Section 1 work	Section 1 work	Section 1 work	Section 1 work	Section 1 completion Section 2 reading
Operation Lexicon: Madeleine L'Engle 15-30 Minutes/Day		Week 7, Day 1	Week 7, Day 2	Week 7, Day 3	
One True Sentence C2: Tools of Style 2 15-30 Minutes/Day	Week 3, exercise 1-4	Week 3, exercise 5-7, practice 1	Week 3, practice 2-3	Week 3, practice 4-5	Week 3, edits, rewrites, or completion
Introduction to Composition: The Essay - Volume 1 15 Minutes/Day	Lesson 1, pgs. 22-23 Rough draft		Lesson 1, pgs. 24-25 Final draft		
A Sentence a Day 15 Minutes/Day		3 pages	2 pages		

This completes the first seven weeks of scheduling. All work continues as demonstrated. Refer to each subject's sample lesson planning tool for detailed descriptions of daily work assignments. We will now jump ahead to **week 16** where The Essay Unit is complete, 2nd Research Unit (Katherine Johnson) is complete, and Poetry is being added to the schedule.

Week 16

Subject	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Literature & Writing #2: The Liberation of Gabriel King 45 Minutes/Day	Section 3 discussion Section 4 work	Section 4 work	Section 4 work	Section 4 work	Section 4 completion Section 5 work
Operation Lexicon: Madeleine L'Engle 15-30 Minutes/Day		Week 16, Day 1	Week 16, Day 2	Week 16, Day 3	
One True Sentence C2: Tools of Style 2 15-30 Minutes/Day	Week 16, exercise 1-4	Week 16, exercise 5-7, practice 1	Week 16, practice 2-3	Week 16, practice 4-5	Week 16, edits, rewrites, or completion
Exploring Poetry 30-45 Minutes/Day		Pages 1-5	Pages 6-8		
A Sentence a Day 15 Minutes/Day		3 pages	2 pages		



This same pattern will be utilized through the end of the year with Guides dropping off at different times:

- **Literature & Writing** continues the pattern of 5 weeks on, one week off. The 6th Literature book concludes on week 35.
- **Research Significant People** has two more Guides available for the year. It will take 10 weeks to complete those Guides.
- **Operation Lexicon** concludes on week 25 if continued in this pattern.
- **One True Sentence** concludes on week 24 if continued in this pattern.
- **Intro to Composition: The Essay** is complete for the year.
- **Exploring Poetry** concludes on week 29 if continued in this pattern.
- **A Sentence a Day** lasts all year long or may be utilized over several years dependent on student's need and schedule.






6th Grade

Grade Level Collection | Suggested Yearly Schedule






This 40 week schedule represents about 9 months on the calendar, allowing for 175-180 days of instruction after accounting for breaks and holidays. The following is a suggested outline showing how the pieces of your Grade Level Collection can be puzzled together over the course of the school year. Any of the elements can be staggered and/or spread out in order to meet your particular needs, creating a varied and comprehensive learning experience.

1 = Calendar Week Number **1** = 1 Week or Section in Workbook  = Review or Complete  = No Assignment

Literature + Writing: Level 3 – Year Pack C • 5 days/week, 60 – 90 minutes/day • 36 Weeks
Use 4 weeks to complete the story activities. Use week 5 for project build. Use week 6 for project presentation and review.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40				
1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5															
#1 The Captain's Dog					#2 The Liberation of Gabriel King					#3 Pictures of Hollis Woods					#4 The Thief Lord					#5 The Wanderer					#6 The Westing Game																		

Research: Significant People D • 1 day/week, 60 – 90 minutes/day • 20 Weeks (spread over 34)
Complete each study guide in 5 weeks then wait 5 weeks before beginning the next.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40				
1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5															
#1 Mahatma Gandhi					#2 Katherine Johnson					#3 Jacques Cousteau					#4 Neil Armstrong																												

One True Sentence C2: Tools of Style 2 • 5 days/week, 15 – 30 minutes/day • 20 Weeks
Begin on week 5.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

Operation Lexicon: Madeleine L'Engle • 3 days/week, 15 – 30 minutes/day • 25 Weeks

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

Intro to Composition: The Essay – Volume 1 • 1 day/week, 45 minutes/day • 10 Weeks
5 lessons, 2 weeks each. Begin on week 6.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

Poetry: Exploring • 1 day/week, 30 – 45 minutes/day • 14 Weeks (every other week)
7 lessons, 2 weeks each. Begin on week 16.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

A Sentence a Day • 3 day/week, 15 minutes/day • 40 Weeks
2-5 lessons per week

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40