

Syllabus for 5th & 6th grade Gifted Program

Overview: The middle school gifted program is designed to extend the regular curriculum and challenge the students by improving their fluency, flexibility, elaboration and originality (P.Torrence’s taxonomy of Creative thinking). All of the “communication arts”, (reading, writing, speaking and listening) are emphasized. Students participate in quarterly thematic units that will extend the various curricular areas. Critical reading and thinking skills are enhanced through novel reading and vocabulary work.

Textbook(s) and other Resources used:

Speare, Elizabeth. The Sign of the Beaver. New York: Bantam Doubleday Pub., 1962.
Kingsburg, E.L. From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. New York: Dell Yearling, 1967.
Lowry, Lois. Number the Stars. New York: Dell, 1989.
Lord, Bette. A Wrinkle in Time. New York: Harper Collins, 1962

Outline of Content:

First Quarter:

Topics: Students will investigate the Native American History and Culture of the Beaver tribe and the Penobscot Indian tribe. .

Projects, papers, tests-schedule and types:

Students will be assessed on their understanding of the novel and it’s critical analysis through tests, quizzes and student projects; both individual and group. Students will create paper rockets and launch and test their rocket. Students will view the movie October Sky and critique and compare it to the novel.

Novel: The Sign of the Beaver

Second Quarter:

Topics: Museums, Art History

Students will research different museums including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, identifying famous artists and their artwork, as well as historical significance.

Projects, papers, tests-schedule and types:

Students will be assessed on their understanding of the novel and it’s critical Analysis through tests, quizzes and student projects; both individual and group. Students will research different museums and create their own museum. They will also research and create an oral presentation which they will present to the class.

Novel: From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

Third Quarter:**Topics:** World War II, Holocaust

Students will research historical events that led to the Holocaust and World War II and the many results these events had on the people, land, and the government.

Projects, papers, tests-schedule and type

Students will be assessed on their understanding of the novel and its critical analysis through tests, quizzes and student projects; both individual and group. Students will take a virtual tour of the holocaust museum. Students will create a diorama, depicting a scene from the book. They will also interview a Holocaust survivor. Students will create an authentic diary from a soldier serving in World War II.

Novel: Number the Stars

Fourth Quarter**Topics:** Space Travel, Science Fiction

Students will research NASA and their current space projects through live web-cams, virtual tours, and news coverage.

Projects, papers, tests-schedule and types:

Students will be assessed on their understanding of the novel and its critical Analysis through tests, quizzes and student projects; both individual and group. Students will build their own space mobile to synthesize concepts of space travel through research and project design. Students will write their own science fiction story along with illustrations to share with their classmates. Students will create a web quest that connects to the story.

Novel: A Wrinkle in Time

*Students will continue to develop their vocabulary through Thematic Units.

Students will be assessed on their knowledge and usage of the vocabulary covered In each unit.