



Sixth Grade Literacy

Check out the
**Indiana Literacy
Framework** for
guidance on literacy
standards:
[www.doe.in.gov/
literacy/framework](http://www.doe.in.gov/literacy/framework)

The Indiana Department of Education is dedicated to informing and educating families about your child's education since you are your child's first teacher. This guide provides an overview of the literacy skills and Indiana English Language Arts standards your child will encounter and learn by the end of sixth grade.

Literacy skills your child will learn in sixth grade:

- Read and understand new words as they appear in text
- Explain how the narrator's actions or words can create the tone or mood in a story
- Determine an author's point of view in both fiction and nonfiction works

- Answer questions using supporting details from a text
- Identify the meaning of a work through making various inferences
- Participate in class discussions about texts and share opinions

- Write an informative essay including an introduction, supporting paragraphs with facts, conclusion, and transitions between thoughts and ideas
- Research a topic and write to persuade the readers
- Practice planning, editing, and revising of formal writing

Communicate with your child about school by asking:

- How can I support you?
- What are you reading in class?
- How does what you are reading in class make you feel?
- Will you summarize what you are reading in class?
- What are you struggling with?

Communicate with the school about your child:

- Regularly check academic progress on school grading software, if applicable.
- Sign up for any forms of digital communication offered by the school (e.g. blogs, social media, Remind)
- Ensure that your contact information is up to date (e.g. phone, email, address)

Turn over for strategies to use at home →



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How you can help at home:

- READ, READ, READ! Encourage your child to read independently every day.
Ask questions like: “What is the text about?”
“How does the reading make you feel? Why?”
“What do you think the author is trying to teach you?”
“How do you think the story will end?”
- Model reading and writing at home. If you make reading seem fun and enjoyable, your child will want to try!
- Keep a variety of reading materials in your home. Subscribe to the local newspaper or check out magazines and books from the public library. When your child is at home and bored, you want them to be able to easily pick up something to read!
- When your child states an opinion, ask them how they came to that conclusion. Getting your child in the habit of explaining their ideas with relevant references will improve their reasoning.
- Watch the movie related to a book or topic they are covering in class. Talk to them about connections they notice between the two.
- Look over papers and assignments that your child brings home. Offer review or enrichment of these skills. Ask your child if they can teach you what they learned.
- Challenge your child to use a wide variety of words. Avoid words like “good,” “thing,” “cool,” or “sad.” These words are very general and can be much more clearly specified.



Digital Resources

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How you can help at home:

When thinking about online programs or apps for your child, it is important to consider the following:

- Are there programs or apps your child uses in school? Reach out to your child's teacher to ask for a list to get you started at home.
- Does the content in the program or app fit your child's learning needs? Do they fly through the program to earn prizes or are they asking for help on every question/section?
- Can they level-out of the program in a matter of minutes? Will the program keep your child's attention?
- Are there ads or pop-ups? If so, are they distracting to the objective of the program? Will your child click on those pop-ups and play those games?
- Are you limiting screen time and also adding in interactions with books?
- Are you monitoring what programs and apps your child is using? Do they contain appropriate content for your child?
- Is your child comfortable typing on a keyboard? Try using free, online typing programs that will help them learn how to type on a keyboard rather than they way they type on their phones.



Seventh Grade Literacy

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Literacy skills your child will learn in seventh grade:

- Distinguish between connotative and denotative meanings of words
- Analyze the effect of an author's choices on a text such as setting and time period
- Evaluate how an author creates their point of view and contrasts it with perspectives of others

- Answer questions using several pieces of evidential support
- Identify what a text says explicitly as well as make various conclusions
- Participate in class discussions that acknowledge and respond to other points of view

- Write an informative essay including an introduction, supporting paragraphs with facts, conclusion, and transitions between thoughts and ideas
- Research a topic and write to persuade the readers
- Practice planning, editing, and revising of formal writing

Communicate with your child about school by asking:

- What can I help you with?
- What are you reading in class?
- How does what you are reading in class make you feel?
- Can you summarize what you are reading in class?
- What are you struggling with?

Communicate with the school about your child:

- Regularly check academic progress on school grading software, if applicable.
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Turn over for strategies to use at home →



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How you can help at home:

- READ, READ, READ! Encourage your child to read independently every day.
Ask questions like: “What is the story about?”
 - “Why do you think the author wrote the piece?”
 - “Why do you think the author set the story in that place and time?”
 - “How do the characters get along with each other?”
- Model reading and writing at home. If you make reading seem fun and enjoyable, your child will want to try!
- Keep a variety of reading materials in your home. Subscribe to the local newspaper or check out magazines and books from the public library. When your child is at home and bored, you want them to be able to easily pick up something to read!
- When your child states an opinion, ask them how they came to that conclusion. Getting your child in the habit of explaining their ideas with relevant references will improve their reasoning.
- Watch the movie related to a book or topic they are covering in class. Talk to them about connections they notice between the two.
- Look over papers and assignments that your child brings home. Offer review or enrichment of these skills. Ask your child if they can teach you what they learned.
- Challenge your child to use a wide variety of words. Avoid words like “good,” “thing,” “cool,” or “sad.” These words are very general and can be much more clearly specified.



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- Can they level-out of the program in a matter of minutes? Will the program keep your child's attention?
- Are there ads or pop-ups? If so, are they distracting to the objective of the program? Will your child click on those pop-ups and play those games?
- Are you limiting screen time and also adding in interactions with books?
- Are you monitoring what programs and apps your child is using? Do they contain appropriate content for your child?
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Eighth Grade Literacy

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The Indiana Department of Education is dedicated to informing and educating families about your child's education since you are your child's first teacher. This guide provides an overview of the literacy skills and Indiana English Language Arts standards your child will encounter and learn by the end of eighth grade.

Literacy skills your child will learn in eighth grade:

- Analyze how a text can highlight a particular point of view or culture
- Evaluate how different versions of a story can be altered based on the source
- Analyze two different perspectives on the same issue and evaluate the quality of argument

- Answer questions using the strongest pieces of evidence to support the answer
- Identify what a text says explicitly as well as make various inferences
- Pose engaging and challenging questions when involved in group discussions

- Write an informative essay including an introduction, supporting paragraphs with facts, conclusion, and transitions between thoughts and ideas
- Research a topic and write to persuade the readers
- Practice planning, editing, and revising of formal writing

Communicate with your child about school by asking:

- How can I support you?
- What are you reading in class?
- How does what you are reading in class make you feel?
- Will you summarize what you are reading in class?
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Communicate with the school about your child:

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Turn over for strategies to use at home →



Eighth Grade Literacy

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How you can help at home:

- READ, READ, READ! Encourage your child to read independently every day.
Ask questions like: “What is the story about?”
“Why do you think was the author’s purpose for writing?”
“In what ways is a text highlighting a culture different than your own?”
“How is conflict developed in the story?”
- Model reading and writing at home. If you make reading seem fun and enjoyable, your child will want to try!
- Keep a variety of reading materials in your home. Subscribe to the local newspaper or check out magazines and books from the public library. When your child is at home and bored, you want them to be able to easily pick up something to read!
- When your child states an opinion, ask them how they came to that conclusion. Getting your child in the habit of explaining their ideas with relevant references will improve their reasoning.
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