

# Sixth Grade Roadmap for Parents Key Signs of Student Success

## English Language Arts READING



*“Read like a Detective”*

**I can read and understand sixth-grade literature (stories, dramas, poems, and myths) and informational text (science, social studies/history, and technical texts), and:**

- Cite evidence to support what the text says explicitly, and to justify inferences about the text.
- Determine the theme or central idea of a story, drama, or poem, and justify with key details.
- Determine a central idea of informational text, and justify with key details.
- Provide a summary of literary or informational texts without personal opinions.
- Determine the meaning of words or phrases as they are used in the text, including:
  - Figurative meanings, e.g., *similes (“as busy as a bee”), metaphors (“you are what you eat”), idioms (“a penny for your thoughts”), and personification (“the stars danced playfully”).*
  - Connotative meanings, e.g., *“childish” implies immature, “childlike” implies innocent, and*
  - Technical meanings, e.g., *“a pedometer” is a device that counts a person’s steps.*
- Analyze how a sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text.
- Analyze how the structure of a text contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot in literary text, or to the development of ideas in informational text.
- Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in informational text, and how an author develops the point of view of a narrator or speaker in literary text.
- Compare and contrast:
  - The experience of written text with an audio, video, or live version of the text, e.g., *contrasting what I “see” or “hear” when reading with my experience of listening or watching,*
  - Texts in different forms or genres, e.g., *stories and poems, historical novels, and fantasy stories,* and
  - One author’s presentation of events with another author’s presentation, e.g., *an author’s memoir and a biography about that author.*
- Evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, looking for claims supported by reasons or evidence.
- Integrate (put together) information presented in different media or formats (visual, quantitative, or oral) in order to write or speak knowledgeably about the subject.

**I can practice these reading and thinking skills in school and at home:**

- Read as much non-fiction as fiction.
- Learn about the world and get smarter in Science and Social Studies through reading.
- Read closely (re-read, read aloud, ask and answer questions, annotate), and persevere (“stick with it”) to read complex text.
- Discuss and write about reading, using evidence to support opinions/arguments.
- Increase my academic vocabulary, through reading, discussing, and writing.

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## English Language Arts WRITING

I can use **writing** to build knowledge, accomplish a specific purpose, and communicate with an audience, by:

- Writing clear and coherent (logical and consistent), multi-page compositions, appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience, including:
  - Arguments to support claims with a clear organization of reasons and evidence,
  - Informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and present ideas, concepts, and information, and
  - Narratives about real or imagined experiences with relevant descriptive details and well-structured event sequences.
- Producing functional writing appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience, e.g., *responses to prompts on reading, mathematics, writing, and science assessments, and formal letters, recipes, experiments, captions, timelines, graphs, and maps.*
- Using the writing process (plan, revise, edit, re-write), with some support from peers and adults.
- Annotating evidence from texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- Quoting or paraphrasing data and information without plagiarism.
- Conducting short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources.
- Using technology (including the Internet and keyboarding skills) with some support from adults to:
  - Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources,
  - Communicate and collaborate with others, and
  - Publish research and writing projects with basic bibliographic information.



## SPEAKING LISTENING

I can use **academic speaking and listening** skills to collaborate, communicate, and present knowledge and ideas about sixth-grade topics and texts, by:

- Engaging effectively in collaborative discussions by being prepared, contributing questions, responses, and comments, and understanding multiple perspectives.
- Interpreting information presented in different media formats, e.g., *visual, quantitative, and oral.*
- Outlining a speaker's argument and specific claims.
- Identifying differences between claims supported by reasons and evidence from those claims that are not.
- Orally presenting claims and findings with facts, details, and examples, using multi-media or visual elements to clarify the information, and using clear pronunciation, appropriate eye contact, and volume.



## LANGUAGE

I can correctly use sixth-grade **academic vocabulary and language conventions** (capitalization, punctuation, and spelling), including:

- Acquiring and using sixth-grade academic vocabulary specific to a domain (area of study), e.g., *literature, science, social studies/history, and technical subjects.*



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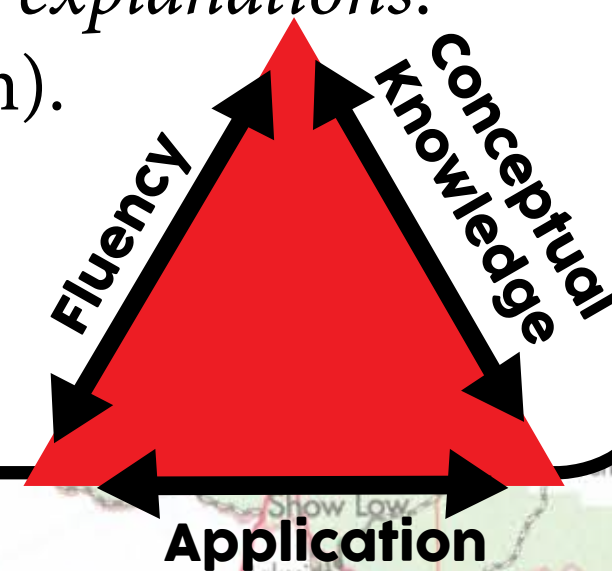
## MATHEMATICS

Be a  
Flexible  
Problem Solver



I can practice these **mathematical and thinking skills** in school and at home:

- Make sense of problems and work to solve them without giving up.
- Think and talk about numbers and number relationships, fluently and flexibly (in multiple ways).
- Use evidence to explain my thinking and to clarify the thinking of others.
- Show and explain my work in multiple ways, e.g., *numbers, pictures, and written explanations*.
- Choose math tools strategically (using the best tool to efficiently solve a problem).
- Use precision (exact vocabulary, labels, examples).
- Look for and use patterns to solve problems.
- Look for and explain rules and repeated reasoning.



I can apply my understanding of **multiplication and division** to make sense of **ratio** and **unit rate**, and the **division of fractions and decimals**, including:

- Fluently dividing multi-digit whole numbers.
- Finding the greatest common factor of two whole numbers less than or equal to 100.
- Finding the least common multiple of two whole numbers less than or equal to 12.
- Analyzing number relationship patterns and describing a ratio as a relationship between two quantities, written as a:b, a to b, or a/b.
- Using ratio in real-world problems to determine the unit rate, e.g., *A recipe calls for a ratio of 3 cups of flour to 4 cups of sugar. That means there is a unit rate of  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of flour for each cup of sugar.*
- Dividing fractions by whole numbers or by another fraction.

I can fluently solve **numerical and algebraic expressions and equations** including::

- Solving one-variable equations and inequalities, e.g.,  $16y + 2 = 50$ .
- Writing and explaining numerical expressions with whole number exponents, e.g.,  $5 + 24 \times n$ .
- Using the distributive property to write equivalent expressions, e.g.,  $3(2 + x) = 3(2) + 3(x)$ .

I can apply my understanding of the **number system** to make sense of **positive and negative numbers** as **rational numbers**, including:

- Describing positive and negative numbers as quantities with opposite values, e.g., *temperature above or below zero, elevation above or below sea level.*
- Solving real-world problems by locating rational numbers as points on a horizontal or vertical number line and on a coordinate plane.
- Writing a rational number as a fraction, a decimal, a ratio, or a percent.

I can develop an understanding of **statistical thinking** by:

- Drawing conclusions about data organized as dot plots, histograms, or box plots.
- Describing the distribution of a data set by its center, spread, and overall shape.
- Summarizing and describing the meaning of numerical data sets.

I can measure **geometrical figures and angles** to find the **area, surface area and volume**.