



**RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Course Overview**  
**Accelerated Language Arts – Grade 6**



### **General Information**

Prerequisite: Student has met readiness level

Length: Full year

Format: Meets for two periods daily

### **Course Description**

Accelerated LA allows high performing, highly motivated, and academically gifted students to pursue rigorous coursework that is tailored toward students who are performing two or more years above grade level. Students are admitted to accelerated courses based on criteria that consider past performance and demonstrated readiness. This course builds on and extends the range of basic content from the on-grade-level language arts course and pursues skills and content from advanced grade levels. Students in this course will develop advanced skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and research. Rigorous in and out of class reading, challenging class discussions and a variety of writing experiences will be required. Summer assignments will also be required.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to read, understand, and respond to informational text such as essays, articles, and biographies at an advanced level.
2. Students will be able to read, understand, and respond to works of literature, including novels, stories, poetry, and drama at an advanced level.
3. Students will develop the skills of informational, argumentative, and narrative writing at an advanced level.
4. Students will engage in evidence-based analysis of text at an advanced level.
5. Students will focus on communication skills that enable critical listening and effective expression of ideas, including collaborative discussion, inquiry, and presentation.
6. Students will develop and refine advanced vocabulary skills to improve reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
7. Students will practice grammatical conventions and apply them consistently as they write across all content areas.

For more detailed information on course objectives, please refer to Pennsylvania's Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts (Draft):

[http://static.pdesas.org/content/documents/6-12\\_ELA\\_Standards\\_8-2-12\\_DRAFT.pdf](http://static.pdesas.org/content/documents/6-12_ELA_Standards_8-2-12_DRAFT.pdf)

### **Common Assessments:**

**Vocabulary:** Student will be regularly assessed in the Wordly Wise vocabulary program including, unit tests, mid-term, and final. (CC.1.2.6 and CC.1.3.6)

**Writing:** Writing assessments will focus on the areas of emphasis identified by the Pennsylvania Common Core State Assessments including narrative, informative/explanatory, opinion/argumentative, and response to literature. This will be accomplished through both process and timed writing assessments. (CC.1.4.6)

**Reading literature and informational text:** A midterm and final will require students to apply strategies, skills and terms to an unfamiliar text. (CC.1.2.6 and CC.1.3.6)

**Range of reading:** A 25 book log will assess students ability to read and comprehend literature, literary non-fiction and informational text on or above grade level, reading independently and proficiently. (CC.1.2.6.L and CC.1.3.6.K)

**Speaking and listening:** Students will be assessed on communication skills that enable critical listening and effective expression of ideas, including collaborative discussion, inquiry, and presentation. This will be done using the RTSD Speaking and Listening Rubric (CC. 1.5.6)

**Grading Policy:** Students can expect to be graded in the following areas. All points are approximate and are meant to reflect balance between the different areas of language arts as well as on-demand and process assessments.

Each Quarter

Writing - 250 points

- Process
- On-demand

Reading – 250 points

- 25 Book Log
- Responses to Literature
- Tests, quizzes, projects

Vocabulary – 125 points

- Wordly Wise unit tests

Grammar – 80 points

- Tests and quizzes
- \*Grammar is also evaluated within student writing.

Speaking and Listening – 30 points

- Whole group discussion, small group discussion, individual conferencing, and presentations

Homework – up to 30 points

- Homework grades reflect completion of assignments and student effort.

### **Major Units of Study:**

*Units of study are organized in a manner that encourages students to make connections across complex skills, strategies, and content.*

Unit #1 Artful Reading and Writing

Unit #2 The Structure of Literature

Unit #3 Dramatically Speaking

Unit #4 Literature Reflects Life

*The following units are year-long and run concurrently with other units:*

--Self-selected reading

-- Vocabulary

--Grammar

### **Materials & Texts**

The following are the anticipated materials and texts. Additions and/or deletions are possible.

*Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt (common)

*The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

*A Midsummer's Night Dream* by William Shakespeare

*Tales from Shakespeare* by Charles Lamb and Mary Lamb

*Sky* by Hanneke Ippisch

*Character is Destiny* by John McCain

Literature circle and individualized reading selections based on student interest and reading level. Sample literature circle selections: *The Samurai's Tale* by Erik Haugaard, *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* by Gary Schmidt, *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park, *Rio Grande Stories* by Carolyn Meyer, and *The Watson's Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis

*Grammar for Middle School: A Sentence-Composing Approach* by Don and Jenny Killgallon

*Poetry in Three Dimensions* Book 1 and various other sources

*Wordly Wise* Book 7

*Pow-word Up!* A pre-AP/SAT vocabulary program implemented school-wide.

Selected materials from Laying the Foundation, an organization that provides teacher resources

Criterion Online Writing Evaluation, a service that evaluates students' writing skills

***Summer Assignment***

STUDENTS IN ACCELERATED LA SHOULD READ AT LEAST FOUR BOOKS OVER THE SUMMER. Two will be assigned; two will be student choice.