



ELA Core Curriculum

for **GRADE 6**

 **ThinkCERCA™**



ThinkCERCA's Core Curriculum was designed to help students develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies to thrive in a global economy.

To be the problem-solvers, leaders, and job-creators of our future, students need to be able to consume complex information, think about it critically, and express their own points of view effectively.

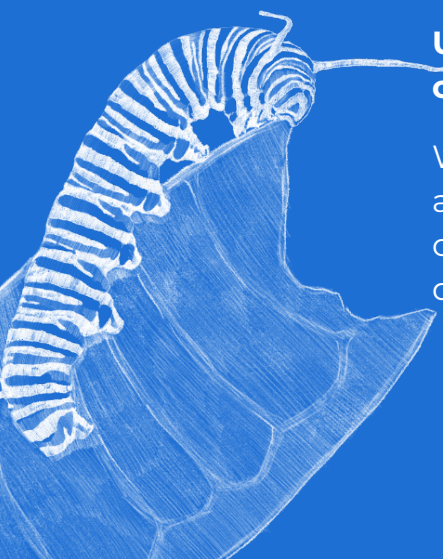


Guiding Values in Our Design:

- Student engagement
- Comprehensive coverage of standards
- Ease of implementation
- Support for best practices in reading and writing routines
- High-quality authentic texts
- Deeper learning opportunities



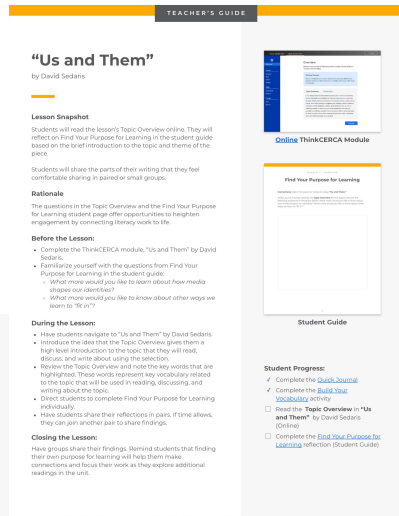
Each grade level invites students to engage in close-reading, analysis and collaboration, formal speaking and listening opportunities, and writing, research, and multimedia portfolio development – all grounded in our research-backed CERCA framework.



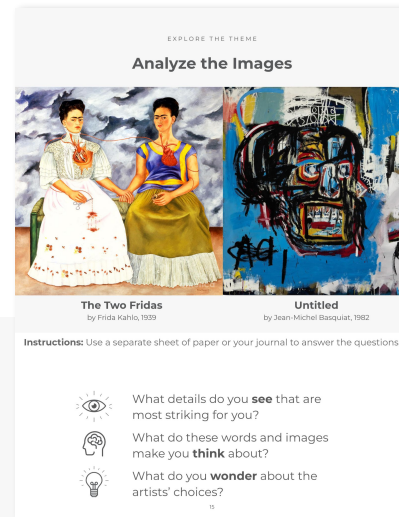
Ultimately, we espouse a pedagogy of confidence.

We truly believe that confident young people are the keys to the success of each and every one of our communities. This program is designed to help us spark courageous thinking!

Course Resources



Teacher's Guide



Student Guide

Course Overview

- Roadmap for course including assessment blocks (BOY, MOY, EOY) and unit snapshots
- Portfolio assessments listed to show progression by unit throughout the year
- Assessment practices aligned to SAT and ACT

Student Guide

- Previews for all unit features: goal-setting, modules, speaking/listening activities, portfolio, and reflection
- Offline activities for each module for each step: Before Your Read, Read, Analyze, Write

Unit Planner

- At-a-glance view of the unit lesson and activities included

Differentiation Guides

- Additional instructional support and ready-made modified materials for both online and offline activities throughout each unit

Teacher's Guide with Facilitator Notes

- Step-by-step guide for unit instruction
- Module preview with summary, unit connection, and key knowledge, understandings, and skills
- Facilitator notes with detailed talking points

Direct Instruction/Skills Practice

- Comprehensive coverage of key skills + concepts
- Flexible implementation options for teacher-led, small group, or self-paced implementation
- Embedded assessment
- Additional leveled skills practice

360 Degrees of Text

Grade 6 Core ELAR

Comprehensive Assessment Resources



Benchmarks



Continuous Embedded Assessment



AP/ACT/SAT Aligned Practice

1

Who Are You?

What are the rewards and challenges of staying true to yourself? Explore models of narrative nonfiction that examine growing up and becoming one's own person.

Portfolio: Narrative Essay Writing

2

How Do We Design Better Schools?

What is the best way for today's schools to ensure the success of tomorrow's students? Explore models of nonfiction arguments about how public education can support communities and build traditions.

Portfolio: Argumentative Essay Writing

3

How Can New Perspectives Shape Our Choices?

Is a challenge always an opportunity for growth? How does their own perspective help them through the challenges? Through short stories, develop literary analysis skills as well as an understanding of how a strong mindset can help people overcome challenges.

Portfolio: Literary Analysis Essay Writing

4

Where's All the Food?

How can food help us be healthy, buy local, and be sustainable? What role does food play in sustainability? Learn more about sustainable communities and efforts by individuals to solve problems.

Portfolio: Research Essay

360 Degrees of Text

Grade 6 Core ELAR

5

What Is All the Drama About?

How does conflict develop over time? What happens when communities find themselves in conflict? Explore this question through a full-length drama and a variety of other pieces across genres.

Portfolio: Cause and Effect Essay Writing

6

How Do Our Brains Work?

How can we understand more about what we like to do and how our individual strengths can shape our plans for the future? Explore readings about the future of work and the resources and frameworks for determining your pathway in life.

Portfolio: Research Paper

7

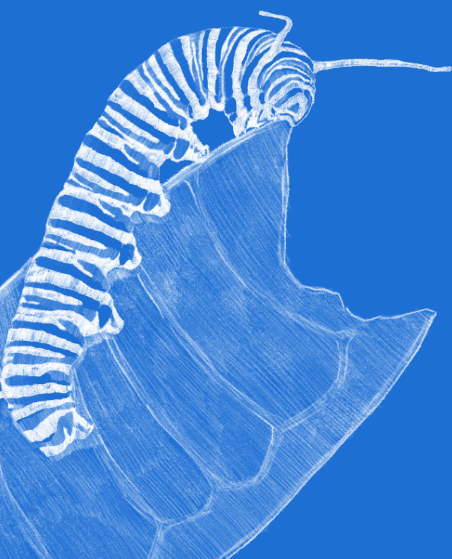
How Do Myths and Tales Teach Us?

What do the characters in fables, folktales, and fairy tales have to tell us about what it means to be human? Explore literature and other writings that have been inspired by other works.

Portfolio: Comparative Literary Analysis Essay Writing



Sample Units



Who Are You?

Grounding students in the experiences of others similar to and different from them allows students to develop self-awareness, social awareness, and empathy, while giving them opportunities to express their own ideas through a variety of formats.

Mentor Texts



Personal Narrative
Fish Cheeks

By Amy Tan



Short Story
Eleven

By Sandra Cisneros



Opinion
The Danger of a Single Story

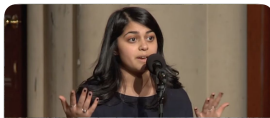
By Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie



Memoir Excerpt
Ice

By Graham Salisbury

Read Across Genres



Multimedia
Self Portrait

By Aleeza Kazmi



Poetry
I Know My Soul

By Claude McKay



Poetry
Day of Refugios

By Alberto Rios



Informational Text
What Can A Personality Test Tell Us About...

By Shankar Vendantam



Informational Text
Be True to Yourself, Even in the Face of...

By Sharon Oosthoek

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Story Elements: Analyze character, setting, plot
- Author's Craft: Narrative techniques
- Theme: Use evidence to determine theme
- Poetry: Compare details and imagery using the SOAPSTone strategy
- Informational Texts: Determine and trace a central idea through details; Summarize

Use Language and Grammar

- Connotation and Denotation
- Sentence Structure: *but, because, so*
- Parts of Speech: Adjectives
- Punctuation: Non-restrictive elements

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Formal Socratic discussion

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a personal narrative
- Writing process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Error Analysis
- Test Prep: Prediction

Essential Question

What are the rewards and challenges of staying true to yourself?

How Do We Design Better Schools?

Investigating real issues that affect real students all over the country allows for students to build informed opinions on the ways schools should work today. From class participation to the use of technology and beyond, students investigate the ways schools can work better in the future.

Mentor Texts



Informational News Article

What Time Should School Really Start?

By Taylor Ha



Informational News Article

Should Kids Get Homework?

By Sarah Wood



Informational News Article

Straight from School Gardens to Lunchrooms

By Grace Chen



Opinion

Down with Class Participation Grades

By Melissa Pandika

Read Across Genres



Multimedia

Schools for Tired Teens

By Aleeza Kazmi



Opinion

The Case for Making Classrooms Phone Free

By Tyler Rablin



Opinion

For Schools, Accepting Student Mobile Phone Use May Be a Better Approach Than Banning Them

By Sarah Rose and Jennifer Taylor



Photo Essay

Check 'em Out! A Collection of Extraordinary Libraries

By Carrie Tillotson



Visual Text

Designing the Future

By Elizabeth Preston

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of an Argument: evidence, issues, and appeals
- Author's Craft: Analyze an author's evidence/coherence
- Informational/Argument Texts: Trace and evaluate an argument; Analyze structure
- Compare Arguments: Compare issues, appeals, and evidence in opinion texts
- Visual Texts: Trace and evaluate arguments in photo essays and infographics

Use Language and Grammar

- Connotation and Denotation
- Pronouns (case, intensive)
- Punctuation: Commas

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Formal Debate

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write an argumentative essay
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Understanding Question Stems; Verify Your Answer

Essential Question

What is the best way for today's schools to ensure the success of tomorrow's students?

How Can New Perceptions Shape Our Choices?

Short stories can give us windows and mirrors into various cultures, beliefs, and challenges. In this unit, students will explore the essential question, “How can looking at the world through someone else’s eyes limit or expand our perception of choices?” to better understand how looking at others’ perspectives can influence the choices we make.

Mentor Texts



Short Story
Names/Nombres

By Julia Alvarez



Short Story
Sometimes a Dream Needs a Push

By Walter Dean Meyers



Short Story
The Medicine Bag

By Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve



Short Story
The Difficult Path

By Grace Lin

Read Across Genres



Poetry
Names

By Teresa Mei Chuc



Poetry
**In Praise of
Craziness, of a
Certain Kind**

By Mary Oliver



Multimedia
**Father Helps
Olympian Cross
the Finish Line**



Informational News Article
**Grand-mates:
Generations Sharing a
Special Bond (and
Sometimes the Rent)**

By Joanne Kaufman



Informational News Article
**Para Sport Explained:
Wheelchairs in
Wheelchair Sports**

By International
Paralympic Committee

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of an Story: Determine characters, setting, plot, and theme in short stories
- Author's Craft: Setting, point of view, character, narrative techniques
- Compare Texts Across Genres
- Informational Texts: Use evidence to support central ideas

Use Language and Grammar

- Pronouns
- Context Clues
- Capitalization

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Story Telling

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a short story
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Understanding Question Stems; Verify Your Answer

Essential Question

How can looking at the world through someone else's eyes limit or expand our perception of choices?

Where's All the Food?

Food is one of the common necessities of life and it brings people together. In this unit, students will explore how others across the world are finding ways to sustain food growth in seemingly impossible areas through indoor farms and new technology. They will also delve into how much food is wasted and what other students are doing to reduce it in their schools and communities.

Mentor Texts



Informational Text

It's What's Outside That Counts

By Catherine Brown



Informational News Article

How the Teens of St. Pete Youth Farm Fight Food Insecurity, One Harvest at a Time

By Gabrielle Calise



Informational News Article

Students Keep Hundreds of Pounds of Food Waste From Entering Landfills

By Bridget O'Shea



Informational Text

Food Factories of the Future?

By Elizabeth M. Tenney

Read Across Genres



Informational News Article

Farms Sprout in Cities

By Jennifer Cutraro



Informational News Article

Rooftop Farming is Getting Off the Ground

By Eliza Barclay



Multimedia

Composting for Kids

By Highfields Composting



Poetry

Recycling Center

By Brenda Hillman



Infographic

Food Waste

By National Geographic

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Structure in Informational Texts: Interpret words and phrases, analyze sentences, paragraphs, and portions of the text
- Author's Craft: Understand point of view and purpose; Describe structure in informational texts
- Compare Texts Across Genres to understand a topic through multiple perspectives

Use Language and Grammar

- Revising for Style and Word Choice
- Figurative Language

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Pitch Deck Presentation

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a research paper
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Understanding Question Stems; Verify Your Answer

Essential Question

How can food help us be healthy, local and sustainable?

What Is All the Drama About?

The way we communicate affects how others perceive us, especially in times of conflict. As students analyze the drama, *Sorry, Wrong Number*, they will see how important communication is and how it can resolve or deepen conflict.

Mentor Texts



Drama

Sorry, Wrong Number: Part I

By Lucille Fletcher



Drama

Sorry, Wrong Number: Part II

By Lucille Fletcher



Drama

Sorry, Wrong Number: Part III

By Lucille Fletcher

Read Across Genres



Multimedia

Sorry, Wrong Number Original Radio Broadcast

From *Suspense*



Multimedia

Telling Stories with Sound: The Golden Age of Radio Drama



Informational Text

100 Years of Radio Drama

By Kamilah Bush



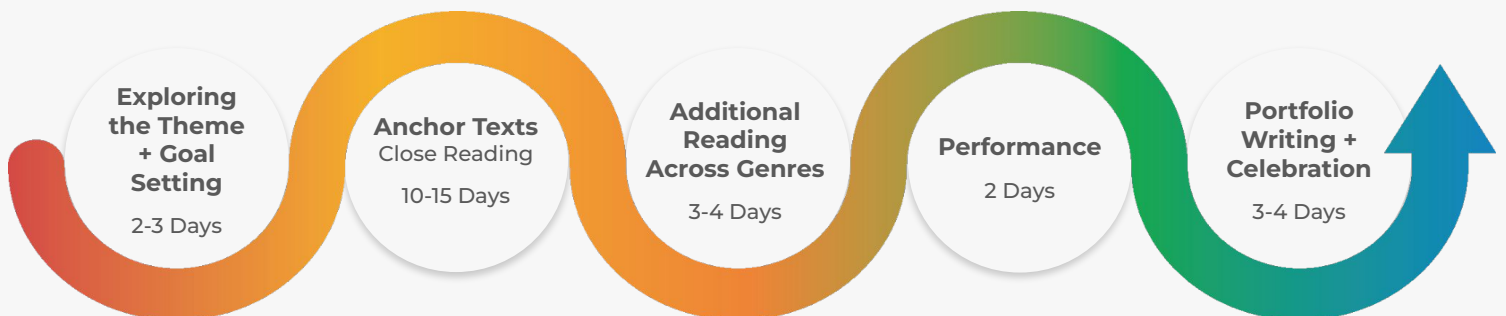
Informational Text

Sorry, Wrong Number Created the Telephone Horror Movie

By Gwen Ihnat

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of a Drama: Determine how characters, setting, plot and theme evolve in a drama
- Author's Craft: Analyze the impact of author's choices and how playwrights develop character and theme in drama
- Compare interpretations and uses of drama across genres
- Informational Texts: Use evidence to understand context and impact

Use Language and Grammar

- Verbs
- Understanding Relationships Captured in Words

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Performance

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a cause and effect essay
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Context Clues; Analyzing Word Choices

Essential Question

How can communication with others create and either resolve or deepen conflict?

How Do Our Brains Work?

Our brains continue to grow significantly during our first twenty years of life. Throughout this unit, which is the first step in preparing students to develop a productive postsecondary plan, students will analyze various informational texts that show how they can change their brains with their mindset, actions, and education.

Mentor Texts



Informational Text

Learning Rewires the Brain

By Alison Pearce Stevens



Informational Text

Inside the Reading Mind

By Carrie M. Canela



Informational Text

Mindset Matters

By Meg Thacher



Informational Text

Build Your Brain!

By R. Douglas Fields

Read Across Genres



Multimedia

Soar

By Alyce Tzue



Informational Text

By the Numbers

By Brian S. McGrath



Informational Text

The Search for a Career

By Helen Kitrosser



Informational Text

Memory Lane

By Nick D'Alto



Informational Text

Breaking the Brain Code

By R. Douglas Fields

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of an Informational Text: Use evidence and central ideas from a variety of texts
- Author's Craft: Analyze how text features and connections within informational texts help develop central ideas
- Develop a robust understanding of the postsecondary process
- Extensions: Engage in activities to support postsecondary planning

Use Language and Grammar

- Revising for Clarity, Development, and Organization
- Figurative Language

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Panel Discussion

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write postsecondary plans
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Understanding Question Stems; Verify Your Answer

Essential Question

How does building a growth mindset help with planning your future?

How Do Myths and Tales Teach Us?

As students read and discuss myths and fairy tales, they will examine the common characteristics of sacred texts and why they endure. Through close reading, writing, and discussion, students will compare and contrast origin stories which have shaped our society.

Mentor Texts



Myth

The Twin Heroes

By Alphonso O. Stafford



Myth

Echo and Narcissus

Retold by Roger Lancelyn Green



Fairy Tale

The Fisherman and His Wife

By The Brothers Grimm



Fairy Tale

Jenny and the Night Women

By Melissa Albert

Read Across Genres



Poetry

Contentment

By Oliver Wendell Holmes



Poetry

Legacies

By Nikki Grimes



Informal Research

Comparing Tales



Informational Text

How Fairy Tales Have Stood the Test of Time

By Adam Ganz



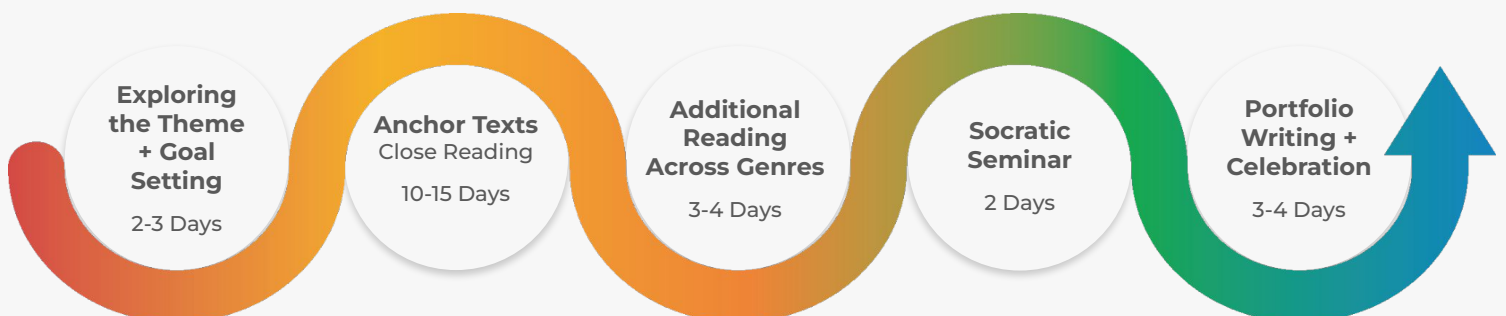
Informational Text

A Fairy Tale is More Than Just a Fairy Tale

By Jack Zipes

Unit Progression

(22-26 Days of Instruction)



Concepts & Skills Focus

Students are introduced to a variety of literacy skills that will empower them as they progress through the course to increasingly more sophisticated readings and tasks.

Read and Analyze

- Parts of an Informational Text: Analyze connections within informational texts
- Author's Craft: Analyze how various genres of literature and informational texts draw from other sources
- Develop a robust understanding of aspects of various literary forms and genres
- Extensions: Engage in informal research of a variety of myths and tales from across the globe

Use Language and Grammar

- Roots and Affixes
- Words that Capture Relationships
- Sentence Structure
- Revising for Clarity and Organization

Speak and Listen

- Small group discussion
- Socratic Discussion

Respond and Write

- Write claims, evidence, and reasoning using the CERCA framework
- Quick Journals
- Final Product: Write a Comparative Analysis
- Writing Process: map, draft, revise, peer edit, publish

Build Skills for Success

- Goal-setting and SMART goals
- Test Prep: Analyzing Verbs in Writing Prompts

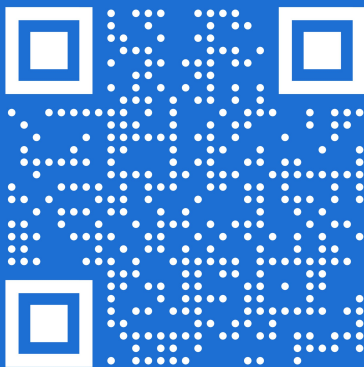
Essential Question

What is the impact of the most enduring myths and tales across the globe and what do these tales have in common?

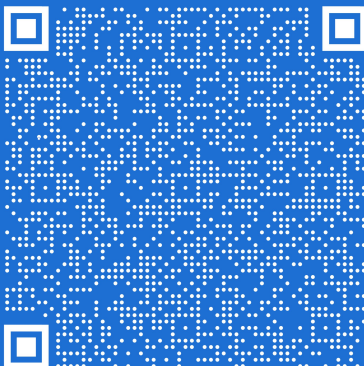
Next Steps

Ready to learn more about our Core ELA?

We'd love to partner and pilot Core with you! Scan the QR codes below to learn more or schedule a demo of Core ELA!



Learn More



Schedule a Demo