

Unit 4: Challenges

Content Area: **ELA**
Course(s): **Sample Course, ELA Gr. 6**
Time Period: **JanFeb**
Length: **Full Year - Grade 6**
Status: **Published**

Title Section

Department of Curriculum and Instruction



Belleville Public Schools

Curriculum Guide

English Language Arts - Grade 6

Unit 4: Challenges

Belleville Board of Education

102 Passaic Avenue

Belleville, NJ 07109

Prepared by: English Language Arts Teacher Grade 6, Melissa Maucione

Dr. Richard Tomko, Ph.D., M.J., Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Giovanni Cusmano, Director of Elementary Education K - 8
Mr. George Droste, Director of Secondary Education

Board Approved:

Unit Overview

The theme of the fourth unit is Challenges and the five themes are as follows: Changing Environments, Overcoming Challenges, Standing Tall, Shared Experiences, and Taking Responsibility. The stories pertain to the following topics: the Dust Bowl, the Exxon Valdez, the 1889 Johnstown, Pennsylvania Flood, Wilma Rudolph, Jim Abbot, fitness, theater history, storytelling, as well as stories and poems with characters who have experienced difficulty in their lives or are faced with a challenging situation to overcome.

Enduring Understanding

- People meet environmental challenges by working together as a community to overcome the challenge.
- People meet environmental challenges with tenacity and determination.
- People meet personal challenges by rising to the occasion and pushing themselves to their limit.
- People meet personal challenges by implementing a disciplined approach to reaching their goals.
- Audiences can relate their own experiences to characters who have had to make difficult decisions.

- Decisions are difficult to make when they affect our future, or when they affect those around us.
- Decisions are difficult to make when we have to decide to do what is easy or what is challenging and will bring us more meaning.
- People uncover what they have in common by sharing their experiences with one another.
- The storyteller and his audience develop a connection by sharing the story.
- We can take responsibility by being mature and owning up to our mistakes.

Essential Questions

- How do people meet environmental challenges?
- How do people meet personal challenges?
- When are decisions hard to make?
- How do people uncover what they have in common?
- How can we take responsibility?

Exit Skills

By the end of Grade 6, ELA Unit 4, student will be able to:

- Recognize the author's point of view
- Identify the characteristics of expository text
- Label pronouns and their antecedents
- Write an argument essay
- Identify the characteristics of a biography
- Name the kinds of pronouns and provide examples of each
- Write an objective summary
- Analyze the theme of a narrative
- Identify the characteristics of a drama
- Label the uses of possessive pronouns
- Write narrative text
- Identify the characteristics of free-verse fiction
- Memorize correct pronoun-verb agreement rules
- Identify main ideas and supporting details in text
- Recognize alliteration and assonance in free-verse fiction

- Take notes
- Skim and scan text

New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS-S)

LA.RL.6.1	Cite textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
LA.RL.6.2	Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
LA.RL.6.3	Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.
LA.RL.6.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
LA.RL.6.5	Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.
LA.RL.6.6	Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.
LA.RL.6.7	Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they "see" and "hear" when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.
LA.RL.6.8	(Not applicable to literature)
LA.RL.6.9	Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.
LA.RL.6.10	By the end of the year read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems at grade level text-complexity or above, scaffolding as needed.
LA.RI.6.1	Cite textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
LA.RI.6.2	Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

LA.RI.6.3	Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).
LA.RI.6.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.
LA.RI.6.5	Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the ideas.
LA.RI.6.6	Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.
LA.RI.6.7	Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
LA.RI.6.8	Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.
LA.RI.6.9	Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) one author's presentation of events with that of another (e.g., a memoir written by and a biography on the same person).
LA.RI.6.10	By the end of the year read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above, with scaffolding as needed.
LA.W.6.1	Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
LA.W.6.1.A	Introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence clearly.
LA.W.6.1.B	Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
LA.W.6.1.C	Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons.
LA.W.6.1.D	Establish and maintain a formal/academic style, approach, and form.
LA.W.6.1.E	Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument presented.
LA.W.6.2.A	Introduce a topic and organize ideas, concepts, and information, using text structures (e.g., definition, classification, comparison/contrast, cause/effect, etc.) and text features (e.g., headings, graphics, and multimedia) when useful to aiding comprehension.
LA.W.6.2.B	Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
LA.W.6.2.C	Use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
LA.W.6.2.D	Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
LA.W.6.2.F	Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented.
LA.W.6.3.A	Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
LA.W.6.3.B	Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
LA.W.6.3.C	Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.
LA.W.6.3.D	Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events.
LA.W.6.3.E	Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.
LA.W.6.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, voice and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.W.6.5	With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing

as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

LA.W.6.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of three pages in a single sitting.
LA.W.6.7	Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.
LA.W.6.8	Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources.
LA.W.6.9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
LA.W.6.10	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, metacognition/self correction, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.
LA.SL.6.1	Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
LA.SL.6.1.A	Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.
LA.SL.6.1.B	Follow rules for collegial discussions, set specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.
LA.SL.6.1.C	Pose and respond to specific questions with elaboration and detail by making comments that contribute to the topic, text, or issue under discussion.
LA.SL.6.1.D	Review the key ideas expressed and demonstrate understanding of multiple perspectives through reflection and paraphrasing.
LA.SL.6.2	Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.
LA.SL.6.3	Deconstruct a speaker's argument and specific claims, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.
LA.SL.6.4	Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate speaking behaviors (e.g., eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation).
LA.SL.6.5	Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, images, music, sound) and visual displays in presentations to clarify information.
LA.SL.6.6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.
LA.L.6.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.L.6.1.A	Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (subjective, objective, possessive).
LA.L.6.1.B	Use intensive pronouns (e.g., myself, ourselves).
LA.L.6.1.C	Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.
LA.L.6.1.D	Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents).
LA.L.6.1.E	Recognize variations from standard English in their own and others' writing and speaking, and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language.
LA.L.6.2.A	Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements.

LA.L.6.2.B	Spell correctly.
LA.L.6.3	Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
LA.L.6.3.A	Vary sentence patterns for meaning (syntax), reader/listener interest, and style/voice.
LA.L.6.3.B	Maintain consistency in style and tone.
LA.L.6.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 6 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
LA.L.6.4.A	Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
LA.L.6.4.B	Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., audience, auditory, audible).
LA.L.6.4.C	Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.
LA.L.6.4.D	Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).
LA.L.6.5	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
LA.L.6.5.A	Interpret figures of speech (e.g., personification) in context.
LA.L.6.5.B	Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., cause/effect, part/whole, item/category) to better understand each of the words.
LA.L.6.5.C	Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., stingy, scrimping, economical, un wasteful, thrifty).
LA.L.6.6	Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

Interdisciplinary Connections

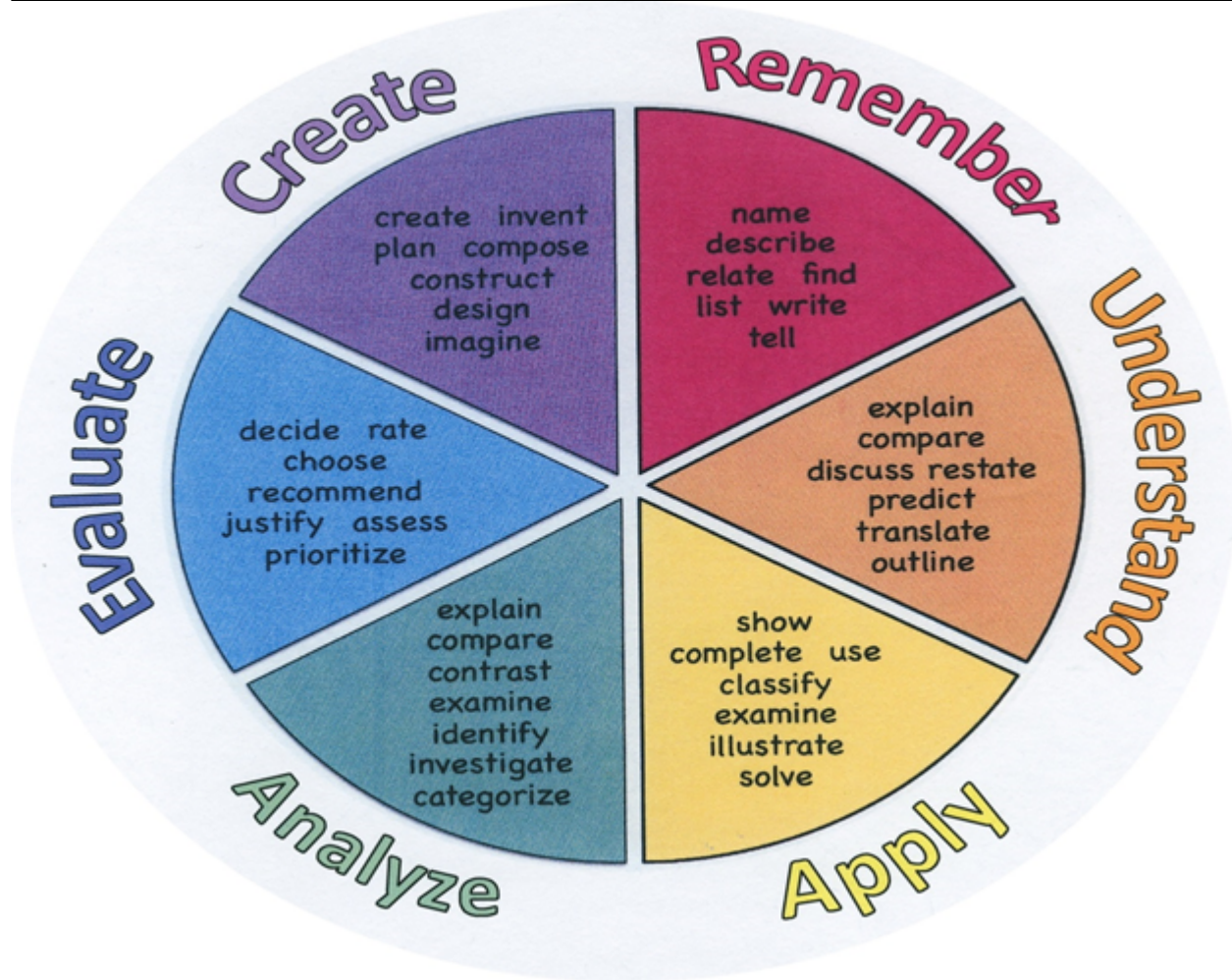
6-8.MS-ESS3-4	Construct an argument supported by evidence for how increases in human population and per-capita consumption of natural resources impact Earth's systems.
6-8.MS-ESS3-3.2.1	students classify relationships as causal or correlational, and recognize that correlation does not necessarily imply causation. They use cause and effect relationships to predict phenomena in natural or designed systems. They also understand that phenomena may have more than one cause, and some cause and effect relationships in systems can only be described using probability.
HPE.2.6.6.A.1	Analyze the social, emotional, and health benefits of selected physical experiences.
HPE.2.6.6.A.5	Relate physical activity, healthy eating, and body composition to personal fitness and health.
SOC.6.3.8.CS1	Recognize the causes and effects of prejudice on individuals, groups, and society.
SOC.6.3.8.CS2	Recognize the value of cultural diversity, as well as the potential for misunderstanding.
SOC.6.3.8.CS4	Listen open-mindedly to views contrary to their own.

Learning Objectives

- Cite specific text evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
- Describe how a text presents itself.
- Determine central ideas or information of a primary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.
- Integrate information presented in different media or formats as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
- Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text.
- Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the character's respond or change as the plot moves towards a resolution.
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of text distinct from personal opinions or judgements.
- Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.
- Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.
- Ensure subject-verb agreement and pronoun-antecedent agreement.
- Read on-level prose and poetry orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings.
- Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events.
- Demonstrate understand of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. Interpret figures of speech in context.
- Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they "see" and "hear" when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.

Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
Choose	Classify	Choose	Categorize	Appraise	Combine
Describe	Defend	Dramatize	Classify	Judge	Compose
Define	Demonstrate	Explain	Compare	Criticize	Construct
Label	Distinguish	Generalize	Differentiate	Defend	Design
List	Explain	Judge	Distinguish	Compare	Develop
Locate	Express	Organize	Identify	Assess	Formulate
Match	Extend	Paint	Infer	Conclude	Hypothesize
Memorize	Give Examples	Prepare	Point out	Contrast	Invent
Name	Illustrate	Produce	Select	Critique	Make
Omit	Indicate	Select	Subdivide	Determine	Originate
Recite	Interrelate	Show	Survey	Grade	Organize
Select	Interpret	Sketch	Arrange	Justify	Plan
State	Infer	Solve	Breakdown	Measure	Produce
Count	Match	Use	Combine	Rank	Role Play
Draw	Paraphrase	Add	Detect	Rate	Drive
Outline	Represent	Calculate	Diagram	Support	Devise
Point	Restate	Change	Discriminate	Test	Generate
Quote	Rewrite	Classify	Illustrate		Integrate
Recall	Select	Complete	Outline		Prescribe
Recognize	Show	Compute	Point out		Propose
Repeat	Summarize	Discover	Separate		Reconstruct
Reproduce	Tell	Divide			Revise
	Translate	Examine			Rewrite
	Associate	Graph			Transform
	Compute	Interpolate			

	Convert Discuss Estimate Extrapolate Generalize Predict	Manipulate Modify Operate Subtract			
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Suggested Activities & Best Practices

- Write a narrative
- Write a poem
- Text dependent questions
- Talk with a partner
- Scaffolded partner work
- Cite text evidence
- Complete a sentence frame
- Guided text annotation
- Literature Circles

- Graphic organizers
- Think Alouds
- Book review
- Independent reading
- Teacher conferences
- Concept web
- Perform a Reader's Theater

Evidence of Student Learning - Checking for Understanding (CFU)

- Admit Tickets
- Anticipation Guide
- Common benchmarks
- Compare & Contrast
- Create a Multimedia Poster
- Define
- Describe
- Evaluate
- Evaluation rubrics
- Exit Tickets
- Explaining
- Fist- to-Five or Thumb-Ometer
- Illustration
- Journals
- KWL Chart
- Newspaper Headline
- Outline
- Question Stems

- Quickwrite
- Quizzes
- Red Light, Green Light
- Self- assessments
- Socratic Seminar
- Study Guide
- Teacher Observation Checklist
- Think, Pair, Share
- Think, Write, Pair, Share
- Top 10 List
- Unit tests

Primary Resources & Materials

McGraw-Hill Grade 6 Wonders Literature Anthology, McGraw-Hill Grade 6 Wonders Reading/Writing Workshop, McGraw-Hill Grade 6 Wonders Close Reading Companion

Ancillary Resources

Scholastic Scope, novels, decodable texts, leveled readers, literacy centers, Readworks.org, Newsela.com, Commonlit.org, Smartboard, laptops, and writing stations

Technology Infusion

Ed.connect.mcgrawhill.com

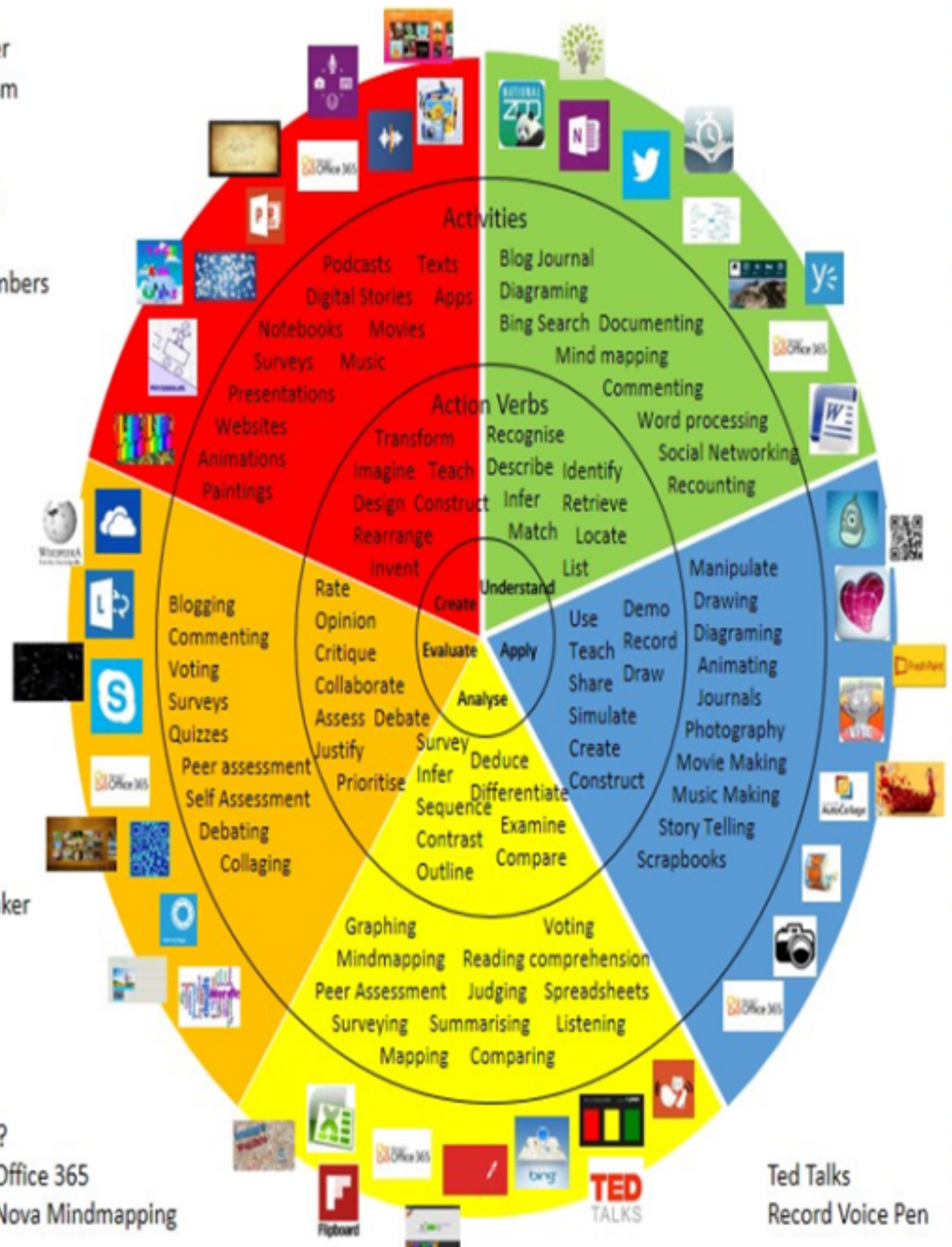
E-books

Interactive vocabulary

Originally taken from <http://www.coetail.com/vzimmer/files/2013/02/IPadagogy-Wheel.001.jpg>
And adapted for Windows 8.1 devices by Charlotte Beckhurst @CharBeckhurst

Wikipedia
Skydrive
Lync
SkyMap
Skype
Office 365
Puzzle Touch
Easy QR
Memorylage
Life Moments
Word Cloud Maker

Ted Talks
Record Voice Pen



Alignment to 21st Century Skills & Technology

Mastery and infusion of **21st Century Skills & Technology** and their Alignment to the core content areas is essential to student learning. The core content areas include:

- English Language Arts;
- Mathematics;
- Science and Scientific Inquiry (Next Generation);
- Social Studies, including American History, World History, Geography, Government and Civics, and Economics;
- World languages;
- Technology;
- Visual and Performing Arts.

21st Century Skills/Interdisciplinary Themes

- Communication and Collaboration
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical thinking and Problem Solving
- ICT (Information, Communications and Technology) Literacy
- Information Literacy
- Life and Career Skills
- Media Literacy

21st Century Skills

- Civic Literacy
- Environmental Literacy
- Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy
- Global Awareness
- Health Literacy

Differentiation

Content: Content will be differentiated through use of multilevel readers for Basic Skills students, Special Education students, Talented and Gifted students, as well as ELL students. The readers are all focused upon the same content, however the lexiles differ depending upon the abilities of the student.

Process: The process will be differentiated through supplying three tiers of questioning for basic, intermediate, and advanced learners. Additionally, students will be supplied with sentence stems and differentiated student workbooks to foster student success of the established goals.

Product: The product will be differentiated because student work will be based upon their reading levels and lexiles. Students will be given choice for projects that appeal to their various learning styles to promote confidence and success amongst the students.

Differentiations:

- Small group instruction
- Small group assignments
- Extra time to complete assignments
- Pairing oral instruction with visuals
- Repeat directions
- Use manipulatives
- Center-based instruction
- Token economy
- Study guides
- Teacher reads assessments allowed
- Scheduled breaks
- Rephrase written directions
- Multisensory approaches
- Additional time
- Preview vocabulary
- Preview content & concepts
- Story guides
- Behavior management plan
- Highlight text
- Student(s) work with assigned partner
- Visual presentation
- Assistive technology
- Auditory presentations
- Large print edition
- Dictation to scribe
- Small group setting

Hi-Prep Differentiations:

- Alternative formative and summative assessments
- Choice boards
- Games and tournaments
- Group investigations
- Guided Reading
- Independent research and projects

- Interest groups
- Learning contracts
- Leveled rubrics
- Literature circles
- Multiple intelligence options
- Multiple texts
- Personal agendas
- Project-based learning
- Problem-based learning
- Stations/centers
- Think-Tac-Toes
- Tiered activities/assignments
- Tiered products
- Varying organizers for instructions

Lo-Prep Differentiations

- Choice of books or activities
- Cubing activities
- Exploration by interest
- Flexible grouping
- Goal setting with students
- Jigsaw
- Mini workshops to re-teach or extend skills
- Open-ended activities
- Think-Pair-Share
- Reading buddies
- Varied journal prompts
- Varied supplemental materials

Intervention Strategies

- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning
- allowing students to select from given choices
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- collaborating (general education teacher and specialist) to modify vocabulary, omit or modify items to reflect objectives for the student, eliminate sections of the test, and determine how the grade will be determined prior to giving the test.
- decreasing the amount of work presented or required

- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- marking students' correct and acceptable work, not the mistakes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- tutoring by peers
- using authentic assessments with real-life problem-solving
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify

Special Education Learning

- printed copy of board work/notes provided
- additional time for skill mastery
- assistive technology
- behavior management plan
- Center-Based Instruction
- check work frequently for understanding
- computer or electronic device utilizes
- extended time on tests/ quizzes
- have student repeat directions to check for understanding
- highlighted text visual presentation
- modified assignment format
- modified test content
- modified test format
- modified test length
- multiple test sessions
- multi-sensory presentation
- preferential seating
- preview of content, concepts, and vocabulary
- reduced/shortened reading assignments
- Reduced/shortened written assignments
- secure attention before giving instruction/directions
- shortened assignments
- student working with an assigned partner

- teacher initiated weekly assignment sheet
- Use open book, study guides, test prototypes

English Language Learning (ELL)

- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning;
- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- decreasing the amount of work presented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- tutoring by peers
- using computer word processing spell check and grammar check features
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests

Sample Lesson

Unit Name: Changes

NJSLS: [linked](#)

Interdisciplinary Connection: Social Studies

Statement of Objective: Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.

Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

- Listen for a purpose.
- Identify characteristics of realistic fiction.

Anticipatory Set/Do Now:

- “How do changes transform the way people look at the world?”

Learning Activity:

- Read essential question.
- Discuss Weekly Concept
- Think, Pair, Share
- Play Build Background video and view photos
- Think, Pair, Share
- Discuss Graphic Organizer

Student Assessment/CFU's:

- Think, Pair, Share, Graphic Organizer

Materials:

- McGraw-Hill Wonders Grade 6 Literature Anthology

21st Century Themes and Skills:

- Global Perspectives
- Civic Literacy
- Creativity and Innovation
- Information Literacy
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

Differentiation/Modifications:

- Cooperative groupings
- Higher order thinking skills
- Close Reading
- Leveled readers

Integration of Technology:

- Smartboard
- Connect-ed