

# The Midwife's Apprentice-Advanced 6th Grade

Content Area: **English Language Arts**  
Course(s): **Generic Course, Language Arts 6**  
Time Period: **Generic Time Period**  
Length: **5 Weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Overview

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Read and analyze *The Midwife's Apprentice* by Karen Cushman

This novel is a coming of age tale that tells the story of Alyce, a young girl in her teens during the middle ages. The main character has no family, no home, and no future until she meets Jane the Midwife and becomes her apprentice. As she helps the sharp-tempered Jane deliver babies, Brat — who renames herself Alyce — gains knowledge, confidence, and the courage to want something from life. The students will understand and explore the general themes of overcoming adversity and finding identity.

## Transfer

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Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

- Identify & explain individual's responsibility to family and the community.
- Determine a theme of a story from details in the text including how characters in a story respond to challenges.

## Meaning

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## Understandings

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Students will understand that...

- you must learn how to accept responsibility before they can achieve and/or grown into self-reliance
- you must exercise grace and humility in the daily application of their knowledge
- theme can mold a students understanding (ie. that opportunity exists for everyone)

## **Essential Questions**

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Students will keep considering...

- How do adults and young people in the books learn to appreciate and accept one another's strengths and weaknesses?
- What kinds of mothers and mother figures appear in the books? How do they help to shape the young character's experiences? What can be learned from the mother-daughter relationships in the book?

## **Application of Knowledge and Skill**

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### **Students will know...**

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Students will know...

- Plot details
- Character development
- Themes
- Symbolism

### **Students will be skilled at...**

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Students will be skilled at...

- Reading with fluency and comprehension
- Identifying and examining literary elements

## **Academic Vocabulary**

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Plot

Setting

Character

Personality traits

Knowledge

Confidence

Courage

Motivations

Actions

Theme (Perseverance, Overcoming Adversity and Finding Identity)

Symbolism

## **Learning Goal**

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### **Objective 1--(Level 3)**

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SWBAT:

- List facts about the author and the novel
- Discuss relevance of novel's themes to current world issues

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.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.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.SL.6	Speaking and Listening
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.

## Objective 2--(Level 2)

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SWBAT:

- Identify and describe major characters
- Identify setting of novel

LA.W.6.1	Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
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.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).

## Objective 3--(Level 2)

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SWBAT:

- Define unknown vocabulary words to apply to text

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.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.

## Objective 4--(Level 3)

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SWBAT:

- Identify and discuss plot development
- Identify literary elements in plot

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.6.5	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.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.

## Summative Assessment

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- Reading comprehension quizzes
- End of novel test
- Project
- Essay
- Class discussion
- Teacher observation
- Journal entries/free writes

## 21st Century Life and Careers

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WORK.5-8.9.1.8	All students will demonstrate creative, critical thinking, collaboration and problem solving skills to function successfully as global citizens and workers in diverse ethnic and organizational cultures.
WORK.5-8.9.1.8.A	Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
WORK.5-8.9.1.8.B	Creativity and Innovation
WORK.5-8.9.1.8.C	Collaboration, Teamwork and Leadership
WORK.5-8.9.1.8.D	Cross-Cultural Understanding and Interpersonal Communication

## Formative Assessment and Performance Opportunities

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- Class discussion
- Comprehension questions
- Journal entries/free writes
- Reading quizzes
- Teacher observation
- Vocabulary quizzes

## **Differentiation / Enrichment**

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- Graphic Organizers
- Guided Notes
- Independent Reading
- Literary Terms
- Literature Circles
- Projects
- Read Aloud
- Sustained Silent Reading
- Vocabulary

## **Unit Resources**

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- The Midwife's Apprentice Book Rag
- The Midwife's Apprentice Novel Tie