

# March: Gr. 6: Unit 4: Where the Red Fern Grows

Content Area: **English**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **March**  
Length: **6-8 Weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Overview

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This unit centers on a study of the novel, "Where the Red Fern Grows".

## Enduring Understandings

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Across spans of time and culture, all people have significant experiences that push them to transition from childhood/adolescence into adulthood.

The experiences and issues of our lives influence the development of our identities.

By exploring the experiences of characters and people in literature, a reader can better understand and reflect upon his/her own transition from childhood to adulthood.

## Essential Questions

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What is the relationship between decisions and outcomes?

What are the elements of a strong friendship?

What are the factors that move individuals to great sacrifice and what are the results?

What are the characteristics or elements that cause a piece of literature to endure?

How does an individual's point of view affect the way they deal with conflict?

## Instructional Strategies & Learning Activities

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For Reading and Writing in Each Module					
Cite Evidence RL/RI.6.1	Analyze content RL.6.2-6.7,6.9 RI.6.2-9 SL.6.2-3	Study & apply language conventions  L.6.1-4	Study & apply vocabulary RL/RI. 6.4, L.6.4-6	Conduct discussions  SL.6.1, 6.6	Writing W. 6.4, 6.5

Reading Comprehension and Fluency	Word Study and Language Conventions	Writing and Reporting
<b>RL.6.1 RL.6.2 RL.6.3 L.6.4</b>	<b>L.6.1 L.6.2 L.6.3 L.6.4</b>	<b>W.6.1 W.6.2 W.6.3 W.6.4 W.6.5</b>
<b>RL.6.5 RL.6.6 RL.6.7 RL.6.9</b>	<b>L.6.5 L. 6.6</b>	<b>W.6.6 W.6.7 W. 6.8 W.6.9</b> <b>W.6.10</b>
<b>RL.6.10</b>	Greek & Latin Roots Study, including:	<b>L.6.1 L.6.2 L.6.3</b>
<b>SL.6.1 SL.6.2 SL.6.3 SL.6.4</b>		<b>SL6.3 SL. 6.4 SL.6.5 SL.6.6</b>
<b>RI.6.1 RI.6.2 RI.6.3 RI.6.4</b>		On-Demand Prompt: <i>Explanatory/Argumentative</i>
<b>RI.6.5 RI.6.6 RI.6.7 RI.6.8</b>		(W.7.2)
<b>RI.6.9 RI.6.10</b>	(L.6.4)	-Review aspects of explanatory writing (quotes, explanations of processes) and view samples.
Suggested Literature Pieces:	Vocabulary Studies:	
§ <i>Where the Red Ferns Grows</i> by Wilson Rawls	§ Select words which are embedded in any of the readings done in class, fiction or nonfiction.	<i>Pre On Demand</i>
Suggested Short Informational Pieces:	§ Apply academic or domain specific words within student body of work.	-Brainstorm for the following prompt:
□ Brief nonfiction pieces (such as essays, autobiographies, newspaper articles, magazine articles or reliable internet sources) based on possible topics	§ Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.	Is it beneficial or harmful to be a part of a team? Cite textual evidence in your essay to support or oppose the question.
(RI.6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.8, 6.9)	(L. 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6)	<i>Post On Demand</i>
Suggested Extended Texts:	Language Focus:	Short Constructed Response: (possible examples)
“Dreams” by Langston Hughes	§ Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (subjective, objective, possessive).	
Literature Circles:	§ Use intensive pronouns (myself, ourselves)	<i>Explanatory/Argumentative</i> (W.6.1)
Throughout this unit, students will read from a variety of texts, stories, poems and informational sources. Lit Circle activities ( <i>skills, vocabulary, writing centers</i> ) will reflect Common Core Standards and use a combination of benchmarks to	§ Recognize and correct vague pronouns (ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents).	§ End of year District Writing Sample (explanatory/argumentative essay)
	§ Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun	

<p>assess student learning.</p> <p><b>(SL.6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)</b></p> <p>Application of Learned Skills:</p> <p>§ 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. (RL.6.7, SL.6.2).</p> <p>□ Compare and contrast 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.(RL.6.9)</p> <p>□ 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. (RI.6.7)</p>	<p>number and person.</p> <p>§ Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements.</p> <p>§ Recognize variations from standard English in their own and others’ writing and speaking, and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language.</p>	<p><i>Informational: (W.6.2)</i></p> <p>§</p> <p>§ 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</p> <p>□ Complete a summary, reaction, and prediction of chapters read in the novel using compound/complex sentences and standard conventions</p>
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## Integration of Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills

Awareness of and appreciation for cultural differences is critical to avoid barriers to productive and positive interaction.

An individual’s strengths, lifestyle goals, choices, and interests affect employment and income.

TECH.9.4.8.GCA.2

Demonstrate openness to diverse ideas and perspectives through active discussions to achieve a group goal.

TECH.9.4.8.GCA

Global and Cultural Awareness

WRK.9.2.8.CAP.3

Explain how career choices, educational choices, skills, economic conditions, and personal

	behavior affect income.
TECH.9.4.8.GCA.1	Model how to navigate cultural differences with sensitivity and respect (e.g., 1.5.8.C1a).
WRK.9.2.8.CAP.4	Explain how an individual's online behavior (e.g., social networking, photo exchanges, video postings) may impact opportunities for employment or advancement.
WRK.9.2.8.CAP	Career Awareness and Planning

## Technology and Design Integration

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Students will interact with the unit using the Smartboard, document camera and Chromebooks/Google Classroom

## Interdisciplinary Connections

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TECH.8.1.8	Educational Technology: All students will use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaborate and to create and communicate knowledge.
TECH.8.1.8.B	Creativity and Innovation: Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge and develop innovative products and process using technology.
TECH.8.1.8.E	Research and Information Fluency: Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information.
TECH.8.1.8.F	Critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making: Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources.

## Differentiation

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- Understand that gifted students, just like all students, come to school to learn and be challenged.
- Pre-assess your students. Find out their areas of strength as well as those areas you may need to address before students move on.
- Consider grouping gifted students together for at least part of the school day.
- Plan for differentiation. Consider pre-assessments, extension activities, and compacting the curriculum.
- Use phrases like "You've shown you don't need more practice" or "You need more practice" instead of words like "qualify" or "eligible" when referring to extension work.
- Encourage high-ability students to take on challenges. Because they're often used to getting good grades, gifted students may be risk averse.
- **Definitions of Differentiation Components:**
  - Content – the specific information that is to be taught in the lesson/unit/course of instruction.
  - Process – how the student will acquire the content information.
  - Product – how the student will demonstrate understanding of the content.
  - Learning Environment – the environment where learning is taking place including physical location and/or student grouping

**Differentiation occurring in this unit:**

Additional support and/or additional challenges will be available to students in need of modifications.

## **Modifications & Accommodations**

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Refer to QSAC EXCEL SMALL SPED ACCOMMODATIONS spreadsheet in this discipline.

### **Modifications and Accommodations used in this unit:**

IEP and 504 plans will be utilized.

## **Benchmark Assessments**

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**Benchmark Assessments** are given periodically (e.g., at the end of every quarter or as frequently as once per month) throughout a school year to establish baseline achievement data and measure progress toward a standard or set of academic standards and goals.

### **Schoolwide Benchmark assessments:**

Aimsweb benchmarks 3X a year

Linkit Benchmarks 3X a year

### **Additional Benchmarks used in this unit:**

Unit tests

Writing Samples

Teacher made benchmark assessments of skills

Linkit testing 3 times a year.

## **Formative Assessments**

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Assessment allows both instructor and student to monitor progress towards achieving learning objectives, and can be approached in a variety of ways. **Formative assessment** refers to tools that identify misconceptions, struggles, and learning gaps along the way and assess how to close those gaps. It includes effective tools for helping to shape learning, and can even bolster students' abilities to take ownership of their learning when they understand that the goal is to improve learning, not apply final marks (Trumbull and Lash, 2013). It can include students assessing themselves, peers, or even the instructor, through writing, quizzes, conversation, and more. In short, formative assessment occurs throughout a class or course, and seeks to improve student achievement of learning objectives through approaches that can support specific student needs (Theal and Franklin, 2010, p. 151).

### **Formative Assessments used in this unit:**

Discussion

Teacher conferences

Teacher observations

## **Summative Assessments**

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**Summative assessments** evaluate student learning, knowledge, proficiency, or success at the conclusion of an instructional period, like a unit, course, or program. Summative assessments are almost always formally graded and often heavily weighted (though they do not need to be). Summative assessment can be used to great effect in conjunction and alignment with formative assessment, and instructors can consider a variety of ways to combine these approaches.

### **Summative assessments for this unit:**

Quizzes

Unit tests

Projects

Writing prompts

## **Instructional Materials**

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Classroom computers

Smart board

Class novels, *Where the Red Fern Grows*

## Standards

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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.SL.6.6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.
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.
LA.L.6.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.W.6.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
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.W.6.1	Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
LA.L.6.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
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.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.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.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.RL.6.6	Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.
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.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.W.6.7	Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.
LA.W.6.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

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.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.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.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.L.6.3	Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
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.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.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.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.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.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.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.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.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.L.6.5	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
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.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.