



# Overview of the Year for Sixth-Grade Writers

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SEPTEMBER	UNIT 1: Raising the Level of Personal Narrative Writing and Edging toward Memoir
OCTOBER	UNIT 2: Realistic Fiction/Social Action Fiction
NOVEMBER	UNIT 3: Informational Writing: Nonfiction Books
DECEMBER	UNIT 4: The Personal and Persuasive Essay
JANUARY	UNIT 5: Historical Fiction
FEBRUARY/MARCH	UNIT 6: Literary Essay: Analyzing Texts for Meaning, Craft, and Tone
MARCH/APRIL	UNIT 7: Writing Prompted Essays for the NYS ELA Exam
MAY	UNIT 8: Poetry
JUNE	UNIT 9: Independent Writing: Launching a Summer of Writing

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The calendar starts with this overview of essential structures and assessment tools. Following in the calendar is a complete description of each unit of study that we hope will prepare you to teach these units with grace and expertise. We have differentiated units across grades in middle school, so that while sixth grade, for instance, launches with Raising the Level of Personal Narrative, seventh grade moves to memoir, and eighth grade begins collecting toward application essays. Of course, as you assess and get to know your readers, you might decide that you and your grade-level colleagues want to incorporate a writing unit from an alternate grade.