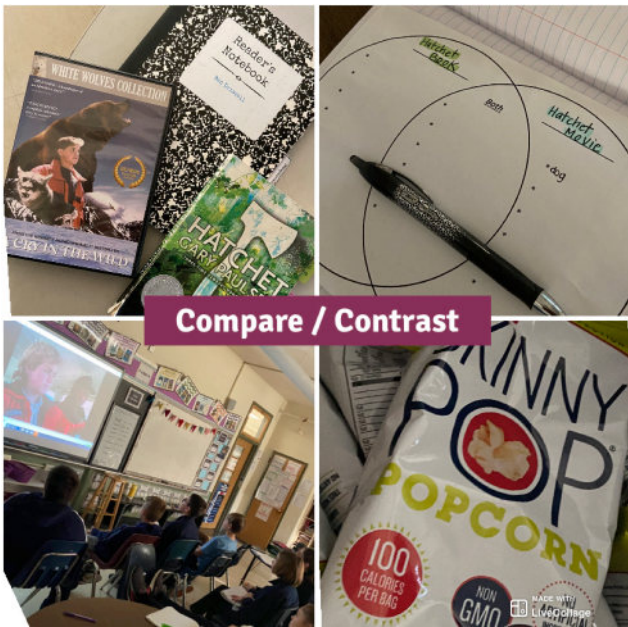


# Mrs. Stefan's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade January/February Newsletter

## Compare/Contrast Essays

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students had the opportunity to compare/contrast the novel *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen and the movie "A Cry in the Wild" which is based on Paulsen's book.



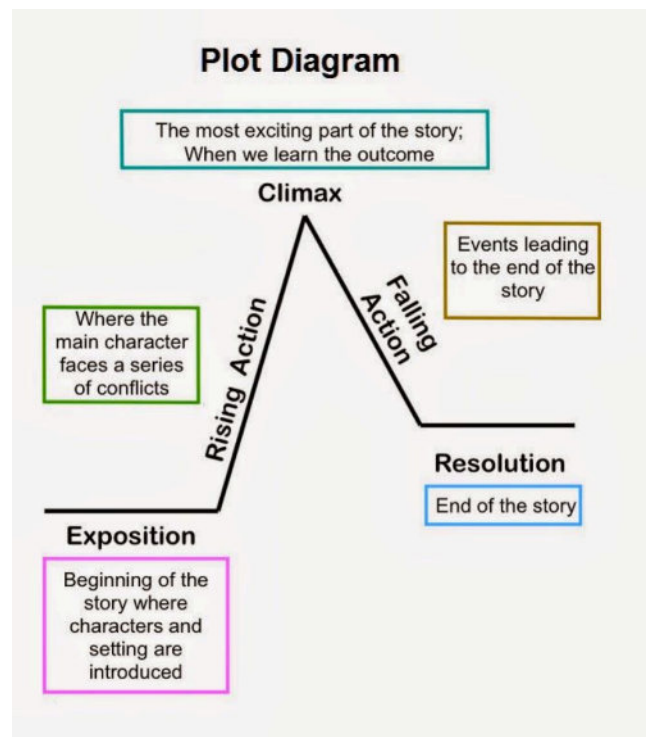
Compare / Contrast

During the movie, students took notes on the similarities and differences between the book and the movie using a blank Venn Diagram. Next, they used the notes to think critically and deeply about the comparisons that took place.

Students used the notes to develop a 5-paragraph essay. Students were challenged to write a thesis statement, topic sentences, details, transition words, and strong vocabulary.

## Analyzing Plot

In January, students used a variety of texts to describe how a particular story's plot unfolds in a series of events as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.



As students read more complex texts, analyzing and understanding them in deeper ways, they strengthen their knowledge of all subjects, including science and history.

# A Tournament of Books



6th and 7th grade teamed up for a March Madness Tournament of Books Project. We have populated a list of 16 great books we want to expose the kids to. The students have been assigned one to read (with their input given). Over a series of dates, the grades will unite to discuss the books in small groups. At the end of the unit, after creating a book commercial, voting begins. We will go from the Sweet Sixteen down to the Elite Eight. Everyone will read a second book from this list of eight and we will have a second vote for our Final Four. Further reading of these titles is then optional but encouraged and the voting continues until we end up with the Champion Novel.



## Tournament of Books Sweet 16 - 5th period



# Literature Circle

Literature Circles in classrooms are meant to introduce students to the joy of reading a book and talking about it with others, while developing and practicing the skills and strategies used by good readers. Each week, students are reading assigned pages from his or her novel and then they create **OPEN-ENDED Questions** that relate to the pages they have read. Open-ended questions allow for discussion and often include a “how” or “why”. It has been fun sitting with each reading group and listening in on the student discussions that are taking place. So much growth and maturity is taking place in the process.



## Tournament of Books Sweet 16 - 3rd period





# Literary Analysis Essays

6th Grade Literary Analysis Essays demonstrate deeper analytic thinking. Literary analysis is a type of expository essay that analyzes or looks closely at a specific aspect of a piece of literature, such as the characters, theme, setting, and symbolism. Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students used the poem, "Abandoned Farmhouse" by Ted Kooser to write very Literary Analysis pieces of the year.



## Literary Analysis Grading Rubric

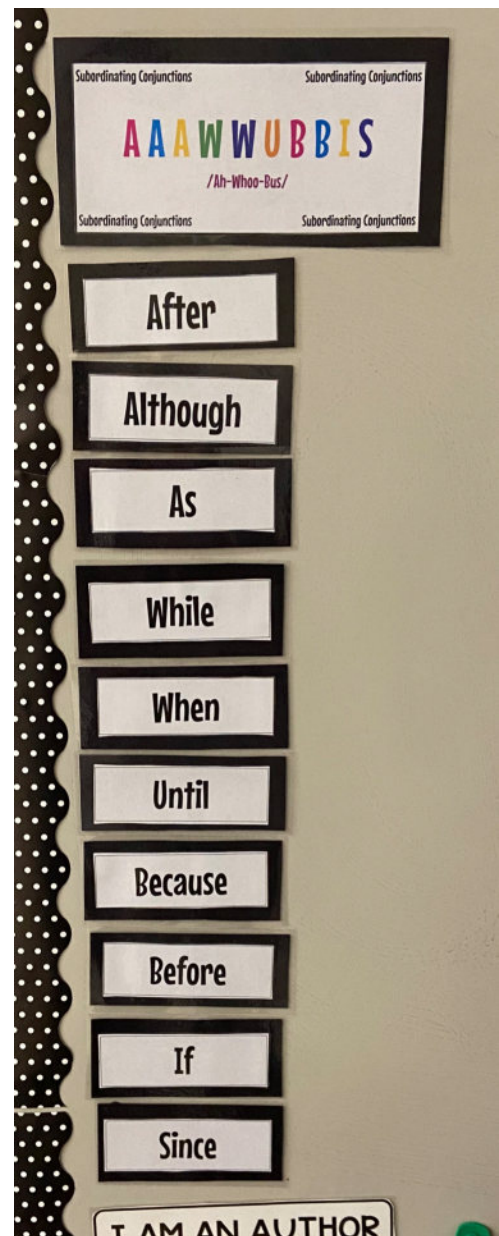
- ☐ MLA Style
- ☐ 5 paragraphs
- ☐ Avoid "I" and "you"
- Introduction paragraph
  - ☐ Hook
  - ☐ Summary
  - ☐ Thesis stated is stated
- 2nd paragraph
  - ☐ Topic sentence is clear
  - ☐ Text evidence #1 is evident
  - ☐ Explanation
- 3rd paragraph
  - ☐ Topic sentence is clear
  - ☐ Text evidence #2 is evident
  - ☐ Explanation
- 4th paragraph
  - ☐ Topic sentence is clear
  - ☐ Text evidence #3 is evident
  - ☐ Explanation
- 5th Paragraph
  - ☐ Restate Thesis Statement
  - ☐ Sum up text evidence
  - ☐ BAM - compliment the writing piece or author

# Grammar

Do you know what AAAWWUBBIS stands for?

It's an awkward mnemonic device to help students recognize subordinating conjunctions.

AAAWWUBBIS stands for although, after, as, when, while, until, before, because, if, since and represents some of the most commonly used subordinating conjunctions. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students learned that when they see these words, a sentence probably contains a dependent clause. They are also using these words in their writing to develop complex sentences. Don't forget the comma!

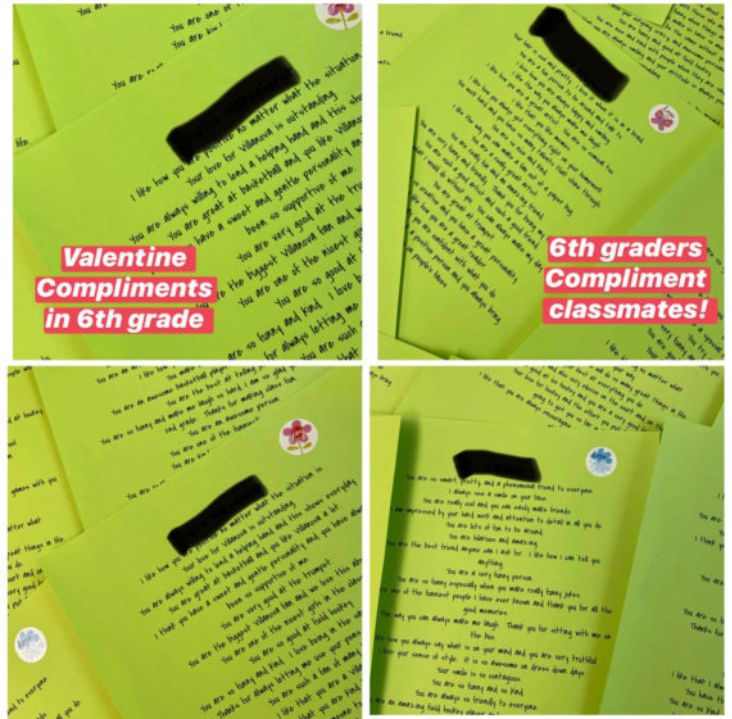


## 6<sup>th</sup> grade Happenings



## Valentine's Compliments

The 6th graders had a wonderful day and truly enjoyed reading their Valentine's Day Compliment Papers. Each student's green sheet was packed with individual compliments from their classmates. It was a truly special encounter for them. I was so touched by the kindness shown by all the 6th-grade students. Proud Teacher!



Thanks for your continued support!

~ Mrs. Stefan