

How Sixth Grade Works: Tips From The Teacher (Sixth Grade Enrichment Series)

Content

How Sixth Grade Works: Tips From The Teacher (Sixth Grade Enrichment Series) by David Harstad.

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Sixth grade is your year!

It's time to put good use to all those years of show-and-tell, playing in the sandbox, and tasting crayons.

You already know what to do - hey, you're a sixth grader - now get a little inside teacher information from the guy who calls a dead shark hanging from the wall the "class pet."

This realistic, family guide answers common sixth-grade questions and describes how teachers operate their classrooms. It explains why things happen and how teachers think. Most of all, it is designed to improve self-reliance and promote your future success.

Writing - Impress your teacher the first day of school with the "perfect paragraph":

*Use a topic sentence.

*At least six words per sentence.

*At least six sentences per paragraph.

*No crime, violence, gore, or fluff (i.e. "The End" or "I hoped you liked my essay.")

Why can't we do more fun stuff? That's the same question teachers ask each day! There are a couple points to remember, as you read about the ancient Egyptians, wondering if they ever had water fights building those pyramids in the hot sun.

First, teachers spread-out "fun" things over time. How boring would it be to go to Disneyland every day and ride the same rides? Totally awesome! (Okay, bad example.) But you get the idea. With every fun activity, students want something better next time. Soon it becomes more about the activity and less about the content...

Why do teachers always put me next to the bad kids? Let's start with the definition of "bad" kids. I'm not sure any student can be labeled as "bad." Your classmates work on different levels. Some watched *Sesame Street* when they were young and understand sharing, kindness, and cooperation more than others. I think the better term to use is "challenging" student. Every room has them, and there are about three in per class (10%).

It's also good to point out that someone "challenging" to you may be friendly, hardworking, and thoughtful for others. It's a matter of perception or opinion. Likewise, the teacher may also have a different opinion of who is "challenging."

With that being said, yes, there are students who are difficult to work with and sit beside. So let's discuss further...

How are classes determined? The goal is balance, and there are multiple factors that determine the teacher's class. It starts at the end the year, when grade-level teachers meet and discuss each student's progress. Students are placed with the teacher that best matches their learning style, while balancing boy-girl, high-low, special needs, and behaviors. The lists go to the principal for review and a couple adjustments. Changes are also made when new students enroll, right up to the first day of school.

Ever see those anxious Alaskan sled dogs barking and going wild, waiting for the journey to start? That's nothing compared to teachers waiting to get a hold of their class lists!

When will we ever need this in life? I always shake my head when a 12-year old thinks they already know everything - that's why we have teenagers!

It starts at the state level where adults develop studies they believe will make students more knowledgeable and well-balanced for life. It's the teacher's job to follow that plan and make sure students are exposed to those topics.

Yes, I agree, some of those studies may seldom be used in your life, but at least you were shown what's out there.

Friends - Sixth grade is a different when it comes to friends. Your friends may change this year, whether you like it or not. It's natural; it happens to all students, and there are a couple of reasons why.

When students reach sixth grade, they realize there are other opportunities to meet people with the same interests or maybe their interests just change. The days of having only one best friend are over - it's time to diversify and get ready for middle school! Here's how...

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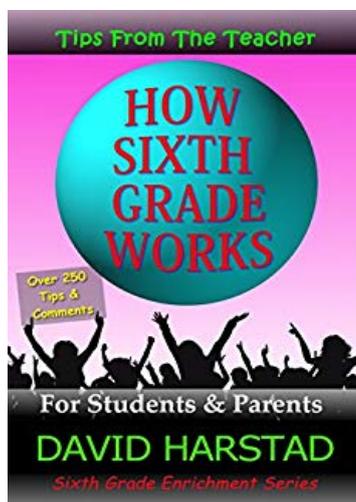
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