



The goal of the Families and Literacy Committee of the WSRA is to develop and carry out plans which convey to parents the value of involvement in reading activities with children.

Members:

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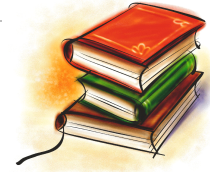
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## Family Reading Fun

In this issue the focus is on the Language standards, a part of the Common Core State Standards. Listed below you will find Language Standard #6 and what it looks like at a kindergarten, fourth grade, seventh grade and high school level. The standard is as follows:

### Language Standard 6

- K** Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts.
- 4** Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., quizzed, whined, stammered) and that are basic to a particular topic (e.g., *wildlife*, *conservation*, and *endangered* when discussing animal preservation).
- 7** 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.
- 11-12** Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

This standard is a great one to work on at home. Read aloud to your child and point out new and interesting words. Encourage your child to then try to use those words in conversations. The more your family reads and talks, the more new vocabulary words your child will acquire.

## Literacy Tips

**For the young reader:** Read aloud to your child every day. Children learn new words by hearing them. Research has shown that the number of words a child knows when entering kindergarten is a key predictor of his or her future success. Reading aloud = larger vocabulary.

**For the teen reader:** Expose your older child to new vocabulary words by taking field trips around your community, going to your local museums, or by hearing speakers talk on different topics of interest. Talk about the things you saw and heard. Try to incorporate some new vocabulary words into your conversations.

# Families and Literacy

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## Meet the Authors



Joanna Cole

Author of hundreds of books, Joanna Cole is most recognized for her *Magic School Bus* series of books. This former elementary teacher, librarian, and children's book editor is both a writer of fiction and nonfiction. An article Ms. Cole read in the Wall Street Journal inspired her first book, Cockroaches. She decided to do more research on the topic of cockroaches and then wrote her first book. In fact, Ms. Cole typically starts with a question. Then she tries to answer the question as she writes. You can read more about Joanna Cole and her Magic School Bus series at <http://www.scholastic.com/magicschoolbus/books/cole.htm>

Doreen Rappaport

A former junior high music teacher, Doreen Rappaport is now the author of 48 fiction and nonfiction books for children. Rappaport has a skill for combining facts with storytelling to enable her to present the lives of well-known heroes in new ways. Her books have won numerous awards, including her book Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Read more about Doreen Rappaport at <http://doreenrappaport.com/>

To see the Common Core State Standards go to [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

## Website Spotlight

Looking for apps to help your child increase his or her vocabulary? Try *Vocab-a-Splat* by Seward and *Kids' Vocab* by Mind Snacks

**\*\* Look for our March issue when we focus on Writing CCSS. \*\***

