

# Grade 6: Reading Benchmark

## Understanding Rhetoric

### Welcome to Reading with the B.E.S.T. Amplify ELA Modules for Florida

The Florida Reading Benchmark Modules are projectable instructional resources that provide an introduction to each grade level B.E.S.T. Reading benchmark. They provide students with a foundational understanding of each benchmark and how it supports text analysis through targeted interactive instruction and practice.

Modules are based on a gradual release model and can be used in a variety of ways, including:

- Whole class lessons to introduce and apply benchmark skills and concepts
- Whole class or small group review of benchmark definitions in any lesson where a refresher is needed
- Small group instruction to reinforce and practice skills for struggling students

Within each module, students apply the targeted benchmark to an analysis of passages from texts from the Florida booklists housed in the Amplify Library. Students are given directions on how to access the texts and use the Amplify eReader to highlight and annotate the passages for whole class discussion. The sections in the modules are designed to build upon each other—starting with an introduction to benchmark definitions and culminating with independent practice. This design works best if the modules are approached as a whole, rather than using the sections out of order or skipping parts.

The modules are divided into five sections:

#### **Benchmark Introduction: 5 min.**

- Key benchmark definitions, terms, and examples

#### **Benchmark Skill Routine: 10 min.**

- Teacher-led introduction to a skill routine for applying the benchmark to text analysis

#### **Benchmark in Action: 10–15 min.**

- Teacher-led walkthrough, using a passage from a relevant Florida text to demonstrate how to use the skill routine to analyze a text



**Independent Practice: 10–15 min.**

- Directions for student practice, applying the benchmark and skill routine to a second passage from a relevant text

**Check for Understanding: 5 min.**

- 2–4 key questions students use during whole class discussion to explain their findings and to wrap up the work on each benchmark

In addition, teacher resources in this PDF include:

- **Benchmark Lessons in Amplify ELA:** List of selected lessons where students will encounter and practice the benchmark
- **Benchmark Stack:** List of benchmarks that students are likely to work with while using the spotlight benchmark to analyze a text
- **Possible Responses:** Sample answers for the Check for Understanding section of the module



## Benchmark Lessons in Amplify ELA

List of selected Amplify ELA lessons where students will encounter and practice the benchmark

### ELA.6.R.3.4

**Understanding Rhetoric:** Identify rhetorical appeals in a text.

#### **Benchmark Lessons in Amplify ELA:**

**6C: The Chocolate Collection, Sub-unit 4, Lesson 2**

**6C: The Chocolate Collection, Sub-unit 6, Lesson 1**

**6D: The Greeks, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 1**

**6D: The Greeks, Sub-unit 2, Lesson 2**

## Benchmark Stack

List of benchmarks that students are likely to work with while using the spotlight benchmark to analyze a text

### ELA.6.R.3.4

**Understanding Rhetoric:** Identify rhetorical appeals in text.

- **ELA.K12.EE.3.1**  
ELA Expectation: Make inferences to support comprehension.
- **ELA.6.R.2.3**  
Author's Purpose and Perspective: Analyze authors' purpose(s) in multiple accounts of the same event or topic.
- **ELA.6.R.2.4**  
Argument: Track the development of an argument, identifying the types of reasoning used.
- **ELA.6.R.3.3**  
Comparative Reading: Compare and contrast how authors from different time periods address the same or related topics.



## Possible Responses

1. Read closely, highlight, and annotate details that are used to persuade the audience.

- “a man’s dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness” (par. 2); “kiss the hand that has no food to offer” (par. 2); “He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince.” (par. 2); “as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens” (par. 3); “there by his graveside will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws and his eyes sad but open, in alert watchfulness, faithful and true, even unto death” (par. 3)

2. How are the speaker’s choices meant to affect the audience?

- Vest uses phrases similar to traditional marriage vows to make the audience think of dogs as a loyal life partner.
- Vest uses figurative language to make the audience view dogs as the most constant companions in the world and to make the audience feel awe for dogs’ unwavering devotion.
- Vest uses imagery to paint an emotional picture of a dog remaining loyal, even in the face of death.

3. Identify and explain the rhetorical appeal.

- Vest appeals to ethos by reminding the audience of the value of loyalty. By echoing the language of traditional marriage vows, he appeals to the audience’s shared belief in this value.
- He appeals to pathos by using strong visual imagery to paint a poignant picture of a dog’s unselfish love (“He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer”) and blindness to status (“He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince”). These descriptions are meant to tug at the audience’s heartstrings and to cause the audience to feel overcome by love and admiration for dogs.
- Vest ends his summation with a final appeal to pathos, a heart-wrenching image of a dog still keeping watch over his master’s grave. This is meant to make the audience feel overwhelmed by tragedy when they think of the death of the dog in the court case.