

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Worldview Shaping in 6th Grade Literature

How should Christians respond to literature?

Literature is a window to the world. Good literature raises big life questions. As we examine the six themes of Perspectives in Literature—relationships, knowledge, courage, leadership, overcoming evil, and making choices— we will find that a biblical worldview is crucial in answering the questions below (and many more). The answers to these questions not only make a student more confident in his Bible, but they also enable him to be more discerning about the world around him.

Why do I need relationships?

God told the first human being that it was not good for him to be alone. Human relationships thrive as they are governed by biblical principles. Literature can help us see that sin causes selfishness, which harms our relationships.

- Does my identity affect how I treat others?
- How should I respond when I am treated unkindly?
- What can the relationships in my life teach me about imitating Christ?

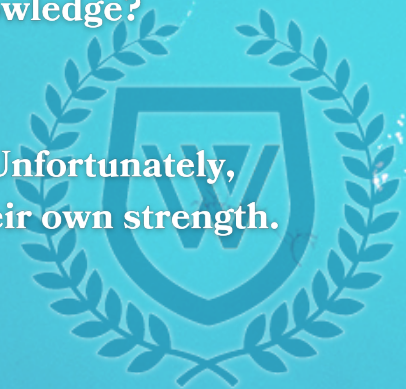
How does God want me to use knowledge?

Scripture tells us that knowledge begins with a fear of the Lord (Prov. 1:7). Literature allows us to see the contrast between a biblical view of knowledge and the secular notion that knowledge begins with our own experiences.

- How does my knowledge reflect God's image in me?
- Where do I find the source of knowledge?
- What does God's design of the world have to do with knowledge?

What gives me courage in difficult times?

True courage is trusting in God despite the circumstances. Unfortunately, some stories promote the idea that courage is trusting in their own strength.



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- What is the solution to my fears?
- How does courage relate to humility?
- What does it mean to courageously obey God?

How do I overcome evil?

God made us to rule over His creation which includes resisting evil, but sometimes characters in stories misidentify evil or try to resolve it in ways that violate God's Word.

- How do we know God is in control when there is so much suffering in the world?
- How am I to respond to those that do evil to others?
- What do I do if the government demands that I break God's law?

How can I prepare to be a leader?

Leadership is the proper use of authority to help others imitate God. Literature allows us to see the negative results of self-promotion and the necessity of humility in leadership.

- What should leadership look like when others are being oppressed?
- How does learning to accept criticism make me a better leader?
- Where can I find practical principles for good leadership?

How do I make the right choices?

All choices concerning right and wrong must be made in dependence on God's Word, but often secular texts either do not give God glory for His principles or reject God's principles altogether.

- Is God's Word really sufficient to guide me in every choice I make?
- How does imitating Christ help me make better choices?
- Is it okay to sin in order to stop suffering?

