

Language Arts 8

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Classroom/ Office Hours

Students are welcome to use my room as a writing and English study space in addition to seeking individual help. I will be available before school from 7 am until first bell every morning and stay after the final bell until 4:30 most evenings. Other responsibilities may occasionally conflict with this schedule, so, if the matter is urgent, it is always best to set up an appointment in advance.

Course Description

Language Arts 8 is a course designed to encourage mastery of the fundamentals of English grammar and literature analysis necessary for secondary education. Successful students will leave the class with the ability to read, write, and speak the English language with the necessary competence to present themselves well in both high school and the entry-level job market. They will also be able to apply rudimentary literary analysis to both fiction and nonfiction texts.

Textbook and Novels

Holt McDougal Literature: Grade 08

Glencoe Language Arts Grammar and Composition Handbook: Grade 8

Parallel Journeys by Alfons Heck, Eleanor H. Ayer, and Helen Waterford

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

The Giver by Louis Lowry

Supplies

Pencil or Pen (pens must be dark blue or black)

1 notebook dedicated to L.A. 8

1 two pocket folder for homework

1 GB or greater flash drive (optional)

See district information for full Junior High listing.

Course Overview

Students will begin the semester by exploring a group of short stories meant to expose them to the wide variety of styles and forms that encompass narrative. They will also be introduced to the parts of speech and practice with grammar exercises, including sentence diagramming. As students advance, they will be asked to apply critical literary analysis to novel length materials; as well as non-fiction materials related

to the Jewish Holocaust. They will also be asked to apply their knowledge of grammar to the five paragraph essay format.

Grading System

Student's grades will be determined by the percentage of total possible points that the student has scored out of the total points possible. I will use the Forsyth High School system to determine the student's letter grade.

Classwork & homework will constitute 40% of the quarter grade; tests & projects will be weighted at 60%. Tests will be given at the end of a unit. Test questions will be approximately 60% familiar quiz questions, 20% critical analysis or short answer, and 20% writing. Tests will generally be worth 100 to 150 points based on the material covered in the unit. Unless otherwise stated, tests will be closed-notes.

Rules and Expectations

- Be prepared. Have all your homework and materials ready in your seat when the bell rings. Don't be tardy.
- Be respectful. Treat yourself, your classmates, other faculty, and me with dignity at all times.
- Be polite; leave fights outside, do not use profanity, and do not trash talk.

Students who excel will...

- ask questions.
- take notes.
- help others
- **choose** to enjoy the material

Students who forget the rules will move through three stages:

1. Receive a verbal warning
2. Be required to an after-school conference/be removed from a fun activity
3. Be referred to the office

The teacher may skip any of these steps at their discretion for the physical, intellectual, and emotional safety of those involved.

Homework and Makeup Work

Homework may consist of notes-study, worksheets, writing projects, independent reading, and study for quizzes and exams. I will endeavor to leave at least one night a week with no homework, but I expect students to carve out a few minutes each night for study. This may include reviewing notes, rereading class texts, or revision of written work.

Students should refer to FHS policy regarding missing and make-up work. Junior high students who do not complete assignments on time will be required to complete the assignment and will receive a grade no greater than a 70%. Full credit will not be awarded for late work.