

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CLASS

SYLLABUS GRADE 6

Fall 2016-Spring 2017

*“Education is the great engine of development.”
Nelson Mandela*

Instructor: Mr. Zindman
Office Hours: scheduled by appointment
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Class Web Page www.mrzindman.com
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COURSE OUTLINE

RATIONALE

This English Language Arts Class is designed to increase your communication skills through reading, writing, speaking, and the study of the English language based on the Common Core Standards. Our primary focus in language arts will be mastery of different writing styles, demonstration of the rules of grammar, and the ability to express yourself orally. We will be using a computer based program called *Read-180* to meet all of your reading and writing needs.

This year you can expect to read a variety of fiction and non-fiction including novels, short stories, dramas, poetry, and essays. These writing pieces will model the different writing styles we will be working on ourselves. Writing assignments will include timed responses, journal writing, essays, critiques, and creative pieces. Vocabulary, spelling, and grammar assignments will also be an important part of this class. Because we are a community of learners, please also expect to work periodically in group situations and to present information to your peers in groups or individually.

Please understand that at-home reading is expected and is a component of our course. You will be held accountable for at-home reading by various methods.

STUDENT SKILL OBJECTIVES

Our major units of study will include but are not limited to:

- Narrative writing *
- Expository writing (descriptive, explanation, comparison and contrast, problem/solution) *
- Technical writing (friendly letters, thank-you notes, instructions, web pages) *
- Persuasive writing/Speech writing and delivery*

- Poetry
- Short stories
- Mythology/Folklore
- Sentence Fluency and Construction
- Vocabulary
- Standard grammar and mechanics
- To prepare for the New York State Examination in English Language Arts.

*Throughout all of our writing, we will also utilize a multi-step writing process to develop, revise, evaluate, and improve our products. In our course of study in all the units, we will address the various elements of specific genres (including but not limited to organization, purpose, audience, narration, conflict, sound, graphics, tone, and theme).

SUPPLY LIST for English Language Arts and Social Studies

Here is a list of supplies required for my class:

- * Two (3 inch) three ring binder. Label the binder with your son/daughter's name and subject
- * 3 packs of reinforced loose-leaf paper
- * 2 packs of dividers
- * 2 zippered pencil cases that fits into the three ring binder
- * 6 pens and 6 pencils and resupply as needed.
- * 6 folders to keep in your binder (3 for each binder)
- * 3 highlighters
- * 1 marble notebook

TEXTBOOK

An *R-Book* from the Read-180 computer program from the Scholastic company.

Numerous additional facts, informative stories, videos, and ditto sheets will supplement the Read-180 Program.

CLASS RULES

Each student receives a complete listing of the school rules in their agenda book. My individual class rules are as follows:

- * To attend class on a daily basis on time
- * Come to class prepared with a notebook, class notes, and pen
- * To behave in a socially appropriate manner
- * To participate in class and do their personal best
- * To sit in an assigned seat

- * To complete all class and homework assignments
- * To prepare for examinations
- * Please remember, cell phones and electronic devices are not permitted in class

Failure to come to class prepared on a daily basis and behaving appropriately will result in a parental contact!

CHEATING/PLAGIARISM

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic grade of zero. This includes copying homework, classwork, test answers, talking during a test or quiz, allowing someone to copy your work, and trying to pass off someone else's work as your own.

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system will be explained to your son/daughter in class. The quarter class grades will be determined using the following formula:

Class Assignments	40%
Class Exams:	50%
Homework:	<u>10%</u>
Quarter Grade	100%

TESTS

Each student will be given a Read-180 pretest during the second week of school to determine their baseline knowledge of English Language Arts. Besides quarterly exams the students will take a Midterm Examination. At the end of the school term they will take a New York State and a Final Exam to determine how much they have learned during the course of the school year.

HOMEWORK

Homework for each Unit is handed out for each chapter. These assignments are aligned with the new Common Core Curriculum and Read -180.

Each student will be given one paper copy of the homework assignments. A copy of the homework assignments is also available at www.mrzindman.com . It can be viewed and printed from this site.

The due date for each assignment will be posted on the homework assignment, blackboard, and my web page. Students will be expected to turn the assignments on the scheduled due dates without exceptions.

Sincerely,

Mr. Zindman

Cut on the dotted line and have a parent sign it. Bring it to school and give it to Mr. Zindman for a bonus prize!

English Language Arts Grade 6

Mr. Zindman's Class

Student Name _____

Parent Signature _____

