

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

CLASS SYLLABUS GRADE 7 and 8



Fall 2020-Spring 2021

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

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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 *I Ready* 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.

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

Here is a list of supplies required for my class:

- * A chromebook fully charged.
- * A mask to be worn in class (if they attend MLO)

TEXTBOOK

The I ready workbook from the Read-180 computer program from Curriculum Associates (This will be provided on the computer due to Covid-19 issues.

Numerous additional facts, informative stories, videos, and ditto sheets will supplement the English Language Arts 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 charged chromebook. If they fail to bring the Chromebook they will have to complete assignments on paper.
- * To behave in a socially appropriate manner
To participate in class and do their personal best
- * To sit in an assigned seat
- * To wear a mask in class.

- * 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	50%
Class Exams:	30%
Homework:	20%
Quarter Grade	100%



Langston Hughes

TESTS

Each student will be given the Renaissance 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 Midterm and Final Exam will be given to determine how much they have learned during the course of the school year.

HOMEWORK

Homework for each Unit is posted on Google Classroom. These assignments are aligned with the new Common Core Curriculum and I Ready.

Students are expected to turn the assignments on the scheduled due dates without exceptions.

Sincerely,

Mr. Zindman



Amy Tan