

Northwoods Park Middle School

Ms. Willis’s 8th grade ELA Syllabus

Welcome to 8th Grade ELA

**Curriculum**

This course will cover four units of study that include nonfiction and fiction texts that will help students explore the big ideas of each unit. In every unit, we will focus on improving reading, writing, and speaking skills. The selected texts will be used to explore standards-based ELA skills and vocabulary specific to the ELA content area.

Unit 1. Heroism and Defining the Hero

Unit 2. Dystopian Societies

Unit 3. Making a Difference in Challenging Times

Unit 4. Humor and the Power of Words

Within each unit, students will independently read a book from a booklist, keep a reading journal as they read, and complete a graded project or assignment for each book.

**Classroom Expectations**

Students are expected to:

-Bring supplies (charged laptop, pencil, folder, notebook)

-Complete both graded and ungraded work on time

-Be respectful of all people and property

-Follow all instructions given by me or other school staff

-Check Microsoft Teams for class announcements and online assignments. Teams will be used for digital assignments and submissions.

-Participate individually and in groups

-Make up work if absent. Students who know they are going to be absent should ask for work in advance. Students should also check teams for posted work.

**Graded Assignments**

Students should expect to complete between 1-2 graded assignments per week. Graded assignments will include, but are not limited to, post-read assessments, worksheets, tests/quizzes, writing assignments, projects, and presentations. Student work will be scored for correctness based on the NC skills that the graded assignment was intended to assess.

Completion of 2 IREADY assessments with a minimum of 40 minutes on task will be required for every student each week. This is a requirement set by the school and students are expected to complete these lessons outside of class. The IREADY requirement will begin after students take the beginning of year test to determine their placement level.

Grade Distribution

10% IREADY Lessons

60% Major Assignments – Includes projects, tests, essays, and independent reading journal/projects.

30% Minor Assignments- Includes classwork, quizzes, Commonlit reading comprehension assessments, worksheets, and bellringers/exit tickets.

Late work will be graded based on the guidelines set in the student handbook. Work that is a week late will receive a 5% deduction. After a week late work will receive a 10% deduction. Students will have until the end of the 9 weeks to turn in late work for a 10% deduction from the grade that they earned on the assignment.

**Supplies**

-1 Subject notebook for “Do nows” and discussion question responses.

- 2 Folders (one to save handouts, and one for student portfolios)

-Composition notebook (for journal responses to independent reading assignments)

-Pencils

-Wired headphones (this is on the school list and is needed for testing and for students to listen to music during independent reading/work. Students may also need headphones to complete assignments.

Any donations of paper towels, Clorox wipes, baby wipes/wet wipes, and tissues are welcome.

**Contact Information**

Preferred form of contact: Email: josiah.willis@onslow.k12.nc.us