



Language Arts: Grade II (2017-18)

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This will be my sixth year as a Language Arts teacher at SLCSE, and after a great summer break I feel ready, and excited, to be your teacher this year. The curriculum that I have planned is demanding as my hope is to prepare you for college and what lies beyond high school. I have high expectations for each of my students and have planned my curriculum around district and state requirements, while considering the unique school culture of SLCSE that I love being a part of. In my class, you can plan on working hard, being prepared, being responsible, being creative, and having fun!

About the Course

This course is designed to help prepare you to become more competent in reading the kinds of texts you will be assigned in different disciplines throughout the rest of your high school classes and beyond. You will work hard to master the reading, writing, speaking, listening and critical thinking skills necessary for college and career success. We will be reading from a variety of sources, and you will continually be drafting, revising and editing your writing. I will be working closely with the Utah Language Arts Core Curriculum to meet state standards. The Utah Core requires continual, intensive practice and study of informational and literary reading and writing. A strong emphasis will be placed on the practice of citing strong textual evidence to support interesting analysis. Another large focus will be for you to practice writing informative texts that examine and convey complex ideas, concepts and information in a clear manner. If you would like, please familiarize yourself with the Utah Language Arts Core Curriculum found at the Utah State Office of Education website:

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/core/>

Required Reading

Throughout the year we will be using many resources, as we do not have a single “textbook”. The texts (in their entirety or excerpted), listed below, will be included in this year’s reading list. However, all texts will be supplemented with additional sources including: essays, videos, short stories, poems, articles etc.

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

The Emerald Mile by Kevin Fedarko

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Lab Girl by Hope Jaren

Macbeth by: William Shakespeare

Additionally, we will consistently be reading books, both fiction and non-fiction, within Literature Circle Groups. Our book collection has been steadily growing and this year is no exception. The Language Arts Department has worked over the summer to make sure that we are providing students with new and interesting books of literary merit to devour.

Other units include:

- College Essays/College Prep
- Literary Analysis & Argument
- Public Speaking
- Poetry Out Loud Competition & Poetry
- ACT Test Preparation
- Short Stories & Creative Writing
- Advanced Informative Writing

Materials

You are expected to bring to class:

- pencil or pen
- a notebook or folder for our work
- our current reading (book and/or supplemental text)
- your SLCSE planner

Grading Policies

60% Classwork – The daily products we work on in class

25% Projects – The work that is of longer duration and is completed in and outside of class

15% Homework, Tests, and Quizzes

- If you need an extension on an assignment, you need to speak with me at least 1 day before the assignment is due. Late work will be accepted but will be docked 50%. For example, if a homework assignment is worth 10 points and you turn it in late, the highest amount of points you may receive is 5.
- If you are absent, you have one week to make up the missed work, unless other arrangements have been made.
- Classwork, Essays and Projects will account for the majority of your grade in this class. They may take place over time and will therefore have deadlines along the way.
- Plagiarism is unacceptable. If plagiarism is practiced in any way a 0% will be given for the assignment and a conversation will take place between the student, parent/guardian, and myself. If plagiarism occurs a second time the student will fail that particular quarter.
- If you need help, schedule a time to come work with me, or go to the Homework Hall after school.
- Grades at the end of each quarter are FINAL.
- Reminder: In order to graduate students are required to pass every quarter of high school Language Arts.

Honors

All students may choose to take the class for honors credit. In addition to all of the regular assignments, honors students will complete some assignments and a writing assignment/project outside of class. You may opt-in to honors the first two weeks of the school year. After that, you are assumed to be in honors unless you speak with me to remove yourself from the class. Failure to complete honors projects will negatively impact your grade.

Class Behavior Expectations

1. Be on time—in your seat when the bell rings
2. Be prepared—have your materials with you
3. No cell phones/electronic devices used during class time unless specified to do so
4. Be respectful—of others' identities, ideas, belongings, and personal space
5. Leave no trace. Pick up your stuff, push in your chairs, and put things where they belong

One final word: We will be reading a variety of texts this year that will bring up controversial topics, ideas and events which we will be discussing during class time. We will also be reading texts that require a high level of maturity because of their serious nature. Being respectful of

others' ideas, beliefs, thoughts, observations and opinions is imperative and will be expected at all times. My classroom is a safe space for all people to ask questions, share ideas and to be themselves.

Dear families,

If you have any questions or concerns please reach me via email at:

ellie.brady@slcschools.org

I look forward to working with both you and your student this year!

Thank you,

Ms. Brady

Please sign and return this portion of the disclosure statement.

I have read the above disclosure.

Print student name

Parent signature and date

Cell phone #

Student signature Date

Parent Email