

8th Grade Language Arts 2016 - 2017
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Course Description

The Eighth Grade Language Arts curriculum will help students understand, communicate, and enjoy the English language. Students will review and expand skills in reading, writing, inquiry research, and presenting. As students share experiences and ideas, they will develop a better understanding of themselves, their peers, and their world. Utah State Language Arts Core and the Standard Common Core Curriculum skills will be integrated into all classroom instruction. A detailed description of the Language Arts Core is available at:

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/langartsec/>

Course Goals and Objectives

- Assist students in becoming effective communicators and citizens by developing reading, writing, speaking, listening and thinking skills
- Comprehension and appreciation of advanced literary texts and terms
- More complex inductive reasoning skills (inference)
- Increase word knowledge through vocabulary building and study of word stems
- Emphasize higher order thinking through open-ended questions, argument, inquiry and reasoning
- Develop writing skills with increasing complexity
- Analyze literature across genres

Course Materials

Materials used for reading and writing models will include novels, short stories, Poetry, essays, plays, newspaper articles, editorials, magazine articles, textbooks, and various works from authors including: Alcott, Bradbury, Berry, Chopin, Cisneros, Dickenson, Douglass, Homer, Hobbs, Hughes, Oliver, Poe, Shakespeare, Steinbeck, Twain, and others. This list is fluid and subject to change in order to follow students' areas of interest as the year unfolds. Literature varies from class to class. A separate complete list of SLCSE literature circle texts is available on request.

Format and Procedures

Students will read great literature so they can explore the breadth of literary contributions over time. These readings will serve as models for writing and as a springboard for students' creative work. Class structure includes explicit teaching of literary strategies, reading, writing and discussion of text, analyzing and modeling of writing skills and mechanics, student practice and incorporation of skills in student writing. Classroom activities will include independent work, partner work, cooperative group work and class-wide activities and discussion.

Homework

- Independent reading 30 minutes, five nights weekly of a self-selected book or assigned class book
- Completion of all writing assignments, projects and activities.
- Test preparation as assigned

Assessment and Grading

Grading will be based on completion and quality of work, projects and presentations, writing assignments, tests, quizzes and participation in class activities. Tests will include, District Writing Tests, quizzes in vocabulary, reading comprehension, grammar and editing exercises. Grades will be earned according to the following percentages:

A = 90 – 100%; B = 80 – 89%; C = 70 – 79%; D = 60 – 69%; Failing grades will be those under 60%.

No late work is accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances and/or prior arrangement is made.

Plagiarism: Copying or stealing someone's ideas and presenting them as you own is called plagiarism. Any work that falls into this category will be given a zero "0" and not be available to make-up.

In addition to the academic grade, a citizenship grade will be given based on attendance, tardies and classroom behavior. These grades are: **H=Honors, S=Satisfactory, N=Needs improvement, U=Unsatisfactory.**

Make-up Work is allowed for **excused absences or under special circumstances with agreement of the teacher.** Upon returning to school, it's the student's responsibility to **see me before or after school to get missed work.** Students will have **three school days** to turn in late work. Any make-up work must be turned in one week prior to the last day of the quarter. For extenuating circumstances, a conference with the parent is required. Grades and current assignments may be accessed using the Salt Lake City School District Power School program on line.

Webpage: <http://my.uen.org/55594>

-----Please detach, sign and return -----

Student Name: _____

Class Expectations

- 1. Be Ready** - Have homework done, have your notebook, library or assigned book and materials ready to work each day. Listen fully to instructions and lectures, pay attention to examples and modeling of work. Ask questions if you don't understand something.

- 2. Be Responsible** - Take ownership of your learning, strive for excellence, and always turn in your best quality work. Participate fully in class discussions, group and partner work. Use every opportunity to learn and grow.

- 3. Be Respectful** - Treat others with thoughtfulness, kindness and consideration. Be part of a positive learning environment in the classroom. We are a community which helps each other grow and develop.

Student: I have read and understand this disclosure. I will honor it while in Ms. Brady's class.

Signature

Date

Parents: My child has discussed the disclosure with me. I understand it and will support it.

Signature

Date