

## David E. Owens – English Language Arts Department

**Department Philosophy:** The English Language Arts Department at David E. Owens Middle School adopts the approach of a Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop model. The “workshop” approach to teaching reading and writing to children, holds that reading and writing are processes, with distinct phases, and that all children, not just those with innate talent, can learn to read and write well. Our goal as a department is to form readers and writers who live a richly literate life.

### ELA Units of Study

	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
<b>Unit 1</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Launching Reading &amp; Writing Workshop</b></p> <p>Students learn strategies that good readers and writers use to navigate through narrative texts. The writing is focused on developing Personal Narratives.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Launching Reader’s &amp; Writer’s Workshop</b></p> <p>Students will launch the Reader’s/Writer’s workshop which will include analyzing short texts and an introduction to the writing process.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Launching Reader’s &amp; Writer’s Workshop</b></p> <p>Students use short stories in order to better analyze literature. The writing is a focus on analyzing an author’s craft.</p>
<b>Unit 2</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Elements of Fiction</b></p> <p>Students will utilize <u>Stargirl</u> by Jerry Spinelli to learn the elements of fiction. The writing is focused on developing Fictional First Person Narratives.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Author’s Craft and Structure</b></p> <p>Students will analyze the elements of a story through setting, figurative language, characterization, and theme. The writing focus is on a first person historical narrative.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Author’s Craft</b></p> <p>Students use vigorous texts, both long and short, to better develop analytic skills. Students further develop written literary analysis skills to deepen their understanding of author’s craft.</p>
<b>Unit 3</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nonfiction- Informational</b></p> <p>Students will learn strategies to identify the different types of nonfiction texts and their structures. The writing will be an Informational Essay that is research based.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nonfiction</b></p> <p>Students will understand the structure of nonfiction text by reading and evaluating various texts. The writing focus is on analyzing and evaluating an argument.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shakespearean Study</b></p> <p>Students use <u>Romeo and Juliet</u> to develop an understanding of the importance of Shakespearean language. The writing is a focus on analyzing drama through different literary lenses.</p>
<b>Unit 4</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Evaluating Arguments</b></p> <p>Students will learn strategies to evaluate arguments and analyze the strength of their claims. The writing will focus on developing and supporting arguments.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Short Stories</b></p> <p>Students will analyze the elements of short stories, poems, and plays. The writing focus is on developing arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nonfiction</b></p> <p>Students read and view nonfiction texts to better understand a writer’s choices. The writing focus is on synthesizing information from multiple sources.</p>
<b>Unit 5</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Short Stories, Dramas, and Poems</b></p> <p>Students will be able to identify the different structures of short stories, dramas, and poems. The writing will focus on comparing and contrasting these genres.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3 Umbrellas</b></p> <p>Students will review the different types of reading and writing used through the year. Students will look at the 3 writing umbrellas: narrative, informational, and literary analysis.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Allegory</b></p> <p>Students use <u>Animal Farm</u> by George Orwell to better understand allegory and its use. The writing is a focus on research and comparative analysis.</p>
<b>Unit 6</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3 Umbrellas</b></p> <p>Students will review the different types of reading and writing used through the year. Students will look at the 3 writing umbrellas: narrative, informational, and literary analysis.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Myths and Movies</b></p> <p>Students will analyze the elements of a myth and techniques of movies. The writing focus is on converting a myth to a skit.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3 Umbrellas</b></p> <p>Students will review the different types of reading and writing used through the year. Students will look at the 3 writing umbrellas: narrative, informational, and literary analysis.</p>

<b>Unit 7</b>	<b>Persuasive Media</b> Students will be able to identify arguments that are supported by evidence versus those that are not in various mediums. Students will write and produce commercials.		<b>Satire</b> Students will be reading and viewing comedic and satirical pieces in order to develop their own comedic/satirical sketches.
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