

I am excited to learn along side you this year in English 8! 😊

Throughout the school year we will:

- Read and respond to a variety of novels of different genres.
- Work through the writing process to develop different types of writing pieces.
 - Collaborate and work successfully with our peers.
 - Demonstrate organization, accountability, & resilience.

Materials Required:	Novels	/Movies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Composition Notebook • Pencil • School issued iPad 	<i>Freak the Mighty</i> by Rodman Philbrick <i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens <i>The Finest Hours</i> by Michael Tougias <i>The Call of the Wild</i> by Jack London <i>The Cross Over</i> by Kwame Alexander <i>Inside Out & Back Again</i> by Thanhha Lai <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , by William Shakespeare <i>Unbroken – Young Adult Version</i> by Laura Hillenbrand	Movie Adaptation PG-13 Movie Adaptation) PG Movie Adaptation) PG-13 Movie Adaptation) PG Parts of Series on Disney+ PG Movie Adaptation PG-13 Excerpts from Movie Adaptation PG-13

These are all provided for you! Please *always* demonstrate respect and appreciation for these materials.

You will be graded on:

- Learner Behaviors (1 grade per week, possible 5 pts) – This changes if there are shorter weeks.
 - o Organization
 - o Classwork/Homework
 - o Respect/Behavior
- IXL Action Plan (1 grade per week, possible 10 pts)
 - o At the start of each class, students will come into the room and immediately begin on their individual IXL action plan. This is a district wide tool used to help students learn and review grade level skills. Students will be given 1 point for effort and 1 point for completion of skills per day.
- Weekly Homework (1 grade a week)
 - o Students will receive 1 assignment of homework on Monday and have the week to complete this. **It is due at the end of class on Friday.** *Homework assignments are subject to change.* Essentially this is to practice responsibility, accountability and grit as well as much as practice skills learned. No additional classwork or reading will be given to students outside of class unless absent.
- Reading Responses (1-2 grades per week)
 - o Students will be instructed and coached through completing 1-2 Reading Responses per week. These will be done in class. Students will be graded with a rubric in accordance with the skill they are targeting. Length, content and skill practiced are subject to change based on novel and pacing.
- Writing Pieces (3 grades per year)
 - o Students will work through the writing process and develop an Argumentative, Expository, and Narrative writing piece. Each final piece will be graded with a rubric.

Additional assignments and other activities will be assigned and completed throughout the year

Always remember: Effort and attitude are *heavily* considered when grading!

Procedures:

<u>Late Work:</u>	Accepted but penalized. Grade will depend on effort and time taken for assignment to be turned in.
<u>Absence:</u>	<p>Please be sure to come see me to catch up on what is missed. If you know you will be out, please check ahead of time. Depending on the time and length of absences, work may not be ready for you to collect, and you will need to check in after your return. If you are absent, you will need to come to class and fill out a yellow sheet with assignments missed and develop a 'game plan' of when this will be completed. The sheet should be returned when assignment is completed to be signed and documented by me.</p> <p>To receive credit regarding Learner Behaviors, I expect the student to return the next day and ask what was missed. I will grant the point <i>back</i> after an absence if this responsibility is completed. If a student was absent, and did NOT check in with me, they will not receive a point back for their absence, even if it is excused. Completing the yellow slip above will indicate you checked in.</p>
<u>Tardiness:</u>	Please arrive ON TIME. If you are late, you need a pass , and do not interrupt instruction if you arrive late.
<u>Ineligibility:</u>	Students' eligibility for activities is dependent on class participation, time spent attending class, work completed, behavior, and preparedness. This is up to the teacher's discretion and students and parents will be notified.
<u>Cellphones:</u>	Cellphones, wireless headphones, or smart watches of any sort are prohibited at any time. If seen, you will be asked to turn it off and place it in a bin on my desk. It will be delivered to the main office immediately where student can pick it up at the end of the day. If refusal, additional consequences will be taken. Please see student handbook or GVCS website for further explanation.

Expectations:

<u>During Class:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All backpacks/bags/energy drinks/food will be placed at the back of the room for the entirety of class. • Please be respectful when entering the class. • Stay seated for the entirety of the class. • Raise your hand if you wish to say something. • If there is a reason to leave your seat, please do so as quietly and calmly as possible. • Bathroom breaks are acceptable during independent work time but NOT when instructions are happening, or directions are being given. One time per class is plenty. • If there is an issue, please wait for an appropriate time to discuss this with me. • To gain the most out of this class, your presence and participation is required. When multiple absences/tardies begin to affect your grade, you are responsible for the consequences. • By the time the second bell rings, you should be seated with a pencil, iPad and supplies needed for class. There will be absolutely no time to find a pencil, find or charge your iPad, or print materials beforehand. • <i>The teacher dismisses you. Not the bell.</i>
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Our 1 Classroom Rule:

If what you are doing: interferes with learning, hurts someone, or prevents you from being your best, you shouldn't be doing it.

Absolutely no:

1. Inappropriate comments or foul language
2. Loud/unnecessary interruptions or disruptions at any point
3. Food or drink (besides water) – ESPECIALLY ENERGY DRINKS!
4. Backpacks at your seat
5. Cellphones, or headphones – dispose of them at the door or leave them in your locker/backpacks.
6. Hoods or hats that cover your ears
7. Complaining about my class, the ‘work’ or ANY other teacher/student
8. Warnings

Students,

I am so lucky to be your teacher! I am excited to learn alongside you this year as you grow and prepare yourself for the next level of academics. I hope to foster a classroom *together* where you can do this, so please remember to always show maturity, respect, honesty, and responsibility to ensure our classroom is a safe and welcoming place for all. You have the potential to do wonderful things this year with effort, a positive attitude and your consistent presence during class each day. It does not go unnoticed!

Parents,

What a privilege it is to spend the year with your children! ***Please send me a message in our new ParentSquare app to let me know that you have read this syllabus.*** This informs me that you have read this and understand what the year will look like. It also grants permission to read the books and watch the films planned in our curriculum which can be found on the GV website. Having started this messaging conversation will provide you with an easy way to get a hold of me later in the school year, if needed.

(Click on Messages, click New Message, and type my last name, and it should be easy to send me a direct message!) ***If parents at different numbers both want to be contacted throughout the year, please have both send this text and indicate as such.***

Please encourage and enforce consistent attendance with your student throughout the school year. 8th grade is a pivotal year that influences and creates habits for the rest of their high school career. Accountability can be the best lesson learned to prepare them.

You can also reach me by email at aebert@genvalley.org

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ebert

