

Campus: Calallen Middle School**Course and/or Grade Level:** 8th Grade English Language Arts & Reading

Course Description: Students read a wide variety of literary forms and explore diverse cultures and historical periods through literature. Emphasis is placed on reading comprehension, vocabulary development, and application of literary elements. Students respond to literature through journal entries, essays, creative products, and graphic organizers. Students are provided direct instruction, modeling, practice, and application of the purposes and forms of writing for a variety of audiences. Students read and respond to various genres focusing on the development of effective listening, speaking, reading, research, and writing skills aligned to the TEKS. This course covers objectives that develop skills necessary to plan and generate quality written compositions by focusing on the development of effective drafting, revising, and editing techniques. Emphasis is placed on applying rules of correct grammar, sentence structure, and spelling.

Semester 1: August 13 – December 19, 2025

1st Quarter Topics	2nd Quarter Topics
● Informal & Formal Writing (Communication Writing) ● Historical Fiction Novel ● Vocabulary Study ● Linear & Non-Linear Plot ● Symbolism, Tone, Theme, Mood ● Comparing/Contrasting Historical Fiction & Informational Text	● Analyzing and Composing Poetry ● Analyzing and Composing Narrative Fiction ● Personal Narrative Novel ● Vocabulary Study ● Characterization ● Analyzing and Composing Informational Texts ● Comparing/Contrasting Personal Narrative & Informational Text

Semester 2: January 5 – May 29, 2026

3rd Quarter Topics	4th Quarter Topics
● Analyzing and Composing Drama ● Analyzing Informational Text ● Text Structures, Text Features ● Historical Non-Fiction Drama ● Vocabulary Study ● Rhetorically Analyzing and Composing Argumentative Texts ● Controlling Ideas, Claim, Rebuttal, Counterargument, Transitions, Evidence ● Comparing/Contrasting Historical Non-Fiction Drama & Informational Text	● Interpretation and Response across Genres (Historical Fiction Novel, Personal Narrative Novel, Historical Non-Fiction Drama, Dystopian Novel) ● Vocabulary Study ● Research-Based Synthesis, Creation, and Innovation ● Work Cited, Primary & Secondary Sources, Credible Sources ● Research Presentations

**Minor adjustment to the schedule may be made based on campus schedules and student needs.*