

Mount Pleasant Central School District

8th Grade, English Language Arts



We believe that all students should acquire the necessary literacy skills, strategies, and knowledge to cultivate their identities as readers and writers in order to engage in critical thinking and communication for authentic purposes and audiences in our diverse world.

In this class, you will work through a standards-based curriculum to promote literacy development of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills, which will lead you to achieve our main goal of becoming a better communicator. You will develop critical reading skills by engaging with a wide range of texts, both fiction and nonfiction. Together, we will analyze themes, characters, and literary techniques, and discuss how authors construct meaning and purpose. You will practice a variety of writing forms, including narrative, argumentative, and analytical. Through the writing process, you will learn to express your ideas clearly, concisely, and effectively. You will hone your writing voice by studying the power of sophisticated word choice and powerful punctuation. Lessons in this area will help you craft sentences with clarity and style, allowing you to communicate more precisely and powerfully.

Unit Title	Month	Content	Vocabulary	Standards	Skills	Big Ideas	Assessments
Getting Ready to Learn in ELA 8	September	- University; syllabus	- memoir; executive functioning; diction	8W1, 8W2, 8W3, 8W4 8SL1 8L3, 8L4, 8L6	- Metacognition - Study Skills - Email etiquette	- How can I prepare for success in ELA 8? - Who am I as a student, and how do I best learn?	- Six-word Memoir project - 8th Grade University
What It Takes: Arguing for Success	September	- Articles	- counterclaim, refutation; vetted; reliable; rhetorical devices	8R1, 8R2, 8R6, 8R8, 8R8, 8R9 8W1, 8W2, 8W5, 8W6, 8W7 8SL1, 8SL2, 8SL3 8L3, 8L4, 8L5, 8L6	- How to evaluate a source - Claim paragraph components - Citing evidence	- What is an argumentative claim paragraph, and how can I use vetted, reputable sources to support my thinking?	-Argumentative Claim Paragraph
Beyond the Bell: Researching Real-World Careers	October	- Articles; webpages	- works cited, evidence, analysis, professionalism, vetted research	8R1, 8R2, 8R4, 8R6, 8R8, 8R9 8W1, 8W2, 8W5, 8W6, 8W7 8SL1, 8SL2, 8SL4, 8SL5, 8SL6	- Conducting research - Evaluating sources - Public speaking	- Where am I now, and where do I see myself going? - What skills do I currently possess that will help me get to	- Career Research Presentation

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				8L3, 8L4, 8L5, 8L6		where I want to go? - What skills do I need to improve upon in order to ensure I get where I want to go?	
Character on Trial: Exploring Identity and Rhetoric in “Twelve Angry Men”	November	- “12 Angry Men” by Reginald Rose	- jury; unbiased; justice; verdict; reasonable doubt; characterization; rhetorical appeals	8R1, 8R2, 8R3, 8R4, 8R6, 8R8 8W1, 8W2, 8W5 8SL1 8L3, 8L4, 8L5, 8L6	- Identifying rhetorical appeals - Analyzing characterization within a text - Exploring conflict and theme	- What are the strengths and flaws of the American justice system as suggested by Rose?	- Literary analysis essay
From Hook to Resolution: The Anatomy of the Short Story	December	- Short stories	- direct and indirect characterization; narratives; plot; literary devices and elements; allusions;	8R1, 8R2, 8R3, 8R4, 8R5, 8R6 8W1, 8W2, 8W5 8SL1 8L3, 8L4, 8L5, 8L6	- Exploring characters, conflicts, and themes	- How do authors create compelling stories? - What strategies can writers use to elevate	- Literary analysis claim paragraphs -Comparative Essay

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			author's craft			their stories?	
The Price of a Pearl: Power, Knowledge, and the Human Condition	January	- <i>The Pearl</i> by John Steinbeck	- motifs; literary analysis; author's craft	8R1, 8R2, 8R3, 8R4, 8R5, 8R6 8W1, 8W2, 8W5 8SL1 8L3, 8L4, 8L5, 8L6	- Analyzing figurative language - Identifying motifs - Exploring characters, conflicts, and themes	- How is greed a destructive force? - How can fate control a person's life? - How are things and people not always what they seem?	- Literary analysis essay
The Silence Between the Words: Exploring Voice and Structure in Night	March	- <i>Night</i> by Elie Wiesel	- inhumanity; humanity; dehumanization; characterization; memoir	8R1, 8R2, 8R3, 8R4, 8R5, 8R6, 8R7 8W1, 8W2, 8W5, 8W6, 8W7 8SL1, 8SL2, 8SL4, 8SL5, 8SL6 8L3, 8L4, 8L5, 8L6	- Analyzing point-of-view and its impact on a text - Making connections between literature and historical facts - Analyzing character, conflict, and theme - Analyzing author's	- How are individuals affected by prejudice and inhumane treatment?	- Literary analysis essay

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					craft		
Mastery Mode: Unlocking Success on the State Exam	April	- NYS practice test	- test-taking strategies	8R1, 8R2, 8R3, 8R4, 8R6 8W1, 8W2, 8W5 8SL1 8L3, 8L4, 8L5, 8L6	- Reviewing strong test-taking strategies for multiple-choice and short response questions	- How can I use test-taking strategies to find success on the NYS ELA Exam?	- State test - Review activities
The Writer's Stage: Your Story, Your Spotlight	May	- Short stories	- plot; narrative; characterization; theme; setting; diction	8W3, 8W4, 8R4, 8R6 8SL1, 8SL4, 8SL5 8L3, 8L4, 8L5, 8L6	- Using what we've learned throughout the year to create an original short story - Implementing figurative language into ones own writing	- How do authors create short stories? - What stylistic elements will I include in my own, original short story?	- Short story
The Proof is in the Paper: Full	June	- Cumulative review	- all unit vocabulary	8R1, 8R2, 8R3, 8R4, 8R6 8L5, 8L6	- Using test-taking strategies to complete a cumulative final	- How can reading critically and writing effectively empower	- Cumulative final exam

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Circle Final Exam Prep					exam	you to analyze, interpret, and express ideas with clarity and purpose?	