

English Language Arts 8

Ms. Harvey, Rm 346

Course Overview

This course is designed to prepare students for high-school-level reading, writing, and critical thinking. Students will explore diverse literary works and refine their ability to express ideas clearly. The core focus of this course is to show the relationship between **what** a text says, **how** an author crafts a message, and **why** it matters.

Primary Course Objectives

1. Interpret complex works of literature to identify common elements of stories and how these contribute to a theme
2. Develop comprehension skills and strategies to analyze literature in multiple formats (short stories, plays, poetry, etc.)
3. Enhance critical thinking, writing, research, and discussion skills

Classroom Expectations

- Students are expected to treat all individuals and materials with respect.
- Students will abide by all TAMS technology use policies (Internet safety, no phone usage)
- If these guidelines are not followed, disciplinary action will occur (write up, call home)

Make Up/Late Work Policy

- Late assignments will receive partial credit until ten calendar days after the assignment is due. After that time, the assignment will no longer be accepted and will become a permanent 0 in Focus.
- In the case of an absence, students have as many days to complete any missed work as the number of days they were absent
- **Weekly IXLs will be accepted for only half credit after their due date.**
- **Students must email Ms. Harvey to notify her of any completed missing work to receive credit.**

Independent Reading

- To build literacy skills, we will be conducting 15 minutes of in-class reading time every Friday followed by a short exit ticket.
- Students may choose a book from our classroom library or bring one from home. If a student chooses to bring a book from home, it must be on-level and appropriate for the classroom. If this guideline is not followed, the student will be required to choose another book from the classroom library.
- If a student is absent on a Friday, they are responsible for completing their independent reading over the weekend and getting their exit ticket signed by **both a guardian and Ms. Harvey that following school day.**

Plagiarism/AI Policy

- Students are responsible for giving credit for use of outside sources for all assignments and homework.
- Students are **not permitted to use AI/ChatGPT of any kind** to create/compose an assignment to pass off as their own.
- **Students who submit work that is not their own will be given a 0 for the assignment, write up, and a contact home.**

Year At A Glance

Quarter 1

- Grammar Unit
 - Parts of Speech, Punctuation, Editing Marks, Writing Mechanics
- ELA Basics Unit
 - Review of Literary Elements, Figurative Language, etc.
- Short Stories Unit
 - “Ruthless” by William De Mille
 - “Sherlock Holmes and the Midnight Killer” by Scope Magazine
 - “The Leap” by Louise Erdrich
 - “The Monkey’s Paw” by W.W. Jacobs

Quarter 2

- Short Stories Unit (cont’d)
 - “Click Clack the Rattlebag” by Neil Gaiman
 - Scholastic’s Drama Version of *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck Unit
 - Discussion Questions, Independent Reading, Knowledge Checks, etc.
 - Self-Led Final Project

Quarter 3

- Poetry Unit
 - Introduction
 - Homophones and Homonyms, Poetic Devices, Parts of Poetry, Types of Poetry
 - Analysis
 - “Jabberwocky”
 - “Nothing Gold Can Stay”
 - “Fire and Ice”
 - “The Road Not Taken”
 - “The Man in the Glass”
 - “Paul Revere’s Ride”
 - “When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer”
 - “Because I could not stop for Death”
 - “The Cremation of Sam McGee”

- The Holocaust and Anne Frank Unit
 - Background Building Activities and “Who was Anne Frank?” (CommonLit)
 - *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett (Drama)
 - *The Book Thief* (Film)
 - Final Exam

Quarter 4

- PSSA “Boot Camp”
 - “Know Before You Test” review and easy indicators for literary devices
 - Practice Areas: MC, TDA, Literary Elements, etc
- Dystopian Novel Unit
 - “Someone Might Be Watching” (CommonLit)
 - Elements of Dystopian Literature
 - Excerpt from *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury (Literature textbook)
 - *Anthem* by Ayn Rand

Required Materials for Class

- Charged Chromebook
- Binder/Folder for materials
- Pencil
- Sign Out Sheet

Contact Information

- School Number:
 - (570) 668-1210
- Email:
 - mharvey@tamaquasd.org
- Remind App