

8th Grade English

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Contact Info

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Course Overview

The following is an overview of major units of study and topics for 8th grade ELA.

1. **Revisiting Poetry**
2. **Novel Study – *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*, Shirley Jackson**
3. **Drama Study – *Twelve Angry Men***
4. **Short Story Studies & Creative Writing**
5. **Holocaust & Genocide Studies**
6. **Novel Study – *Speak*, Laurie Halse Anderson**

You will create pieces of writing and other products based on what we read in class. Among other assignments, we will focus on poetry annotation and analysis, literary analysis, personal reflections, persuasive and nonfiction writing, and close reading of literature. There will be frequent vocabulary quizzes. For certain content, film versions will be watched for the purpose of comparative analysis. Throughout the year, we will have class days devoted to MCAS preparation, and IXL and NoRedInk practice will also be used to reinforce important skills.

Independent Reading

You will be expected to always have a book that you are reading outside of what we're studying in class. This can be a book taken from home, our classroom library, the school library, town library, or accessed through an e-reader or other digital platform. You will have an independent reading log due about once a month, and you will be expected to consistently make reasonable progress in the book you are reading.

Homework

Homework will often be reading, either from your independent reading book or something we are covering in class. Sometimes homework will be writing or another assignment related to what we are doing in class. You will sometimes have the opportunity to work on homework in class, but you should expect to have fairly regular homework assignments as well.

Absences & Missing Work

If you are absent from class, please contact me so we can make a plan for making up work. As long as you take responsibility for what you need to do, you will still get full credit. All assignments and class materials will be posted on Google Classroom. If missing work is up to one week late, you will receive 80% credit. Missing work will generally not receive credit after one week.

Grading

Most assignments will be graded through rubrics (generally: exceeds expectations, meets expectations, approaches expectations, or doesn't meet expectations) assessing various qualities that will then be converted into an overall score. Smaller assignments will be scored on completion.

Using a total-points grading system, major assignments such as essays, quizzes, and other long-form writing will be weighed more heavily than smaller daily assignments and responses. Grades will be updated at least once per week.

Supplies

Every day you should bring to class something to write with, your Chromebook, your notebook, and an independent reading book.

Extra Help

Please reach out to me in person or through email if you need extra help. I am often available before school, after school, and during ME block. Please do not hesitate to ask—I am always happy to do anything I can to help you.