

GRADE 8 SYLLABUS 2011-2012

Class: Grade 8 English Language Arts
Instructor: Mrs. Theresa Cyr
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Course Description:

Grade 8 English Language Arts is a course designed to properly prepare 8th graders for their freshmen year in grammar, writing, and reading based on the recently adopted Core Standards.

Grammar is explored throughout the school year focusing on proper mechanics and parts of speech, and how to implement it in their writing. The writing process will be involved throughout all writing assignments, such as narrative pieces, persuasive essays, research papers (APA), and informative/explanatory writing.

Reading will consist of comprehending, interpreting, analyzing, evaluating, and appreciating literary and expository texts. This will be done through a variety of strategies, such as individual and group activities, quarterly book projects, writing activities, and reenactments. New vocabulary and literary terms will also be explored and tested on a regular basis.

Possible Reading Materials:

- *Haunting of Hill House*, by Shirley Jackson
- *Pit and the Pendulum*, by Edgar Allan Poe
- *Allagash Haunting: The Story of Emile Camille*, by Tim Caverly (Maine Author)
- *Midsummer Night's Dream*, by William Shakespeare
- *Travels with Charlie*, by John Steinbeck
- Various readings of Mythology
- Various poetry
- Various speeches and informational text

Possible Videos Viewed:

- [The Haunting](#), G rating, 1963
- [A Midsummer Night's Dream](#), not rated, 1935
- [Jim Henson's The Story Teller: Greek Myths](#), not rated, 1997

Required Materials by Students:

- ✎ 1 subject notebook to keep in class
- ✎ folder/binder to organize their homework
- ✎ pens
- ✎ pencils
- ✎ highlighter

Grades:

Writing Assignments ~ 25%
Homework/Class Work ~ 25%
Tests/Quizzes/Class Projects* ~ 25%
Participation** ~ 25%

Class Expectations:

I expect everyone to be respectful in my classroom. It is to be a safe environment that enhances everyone's learning. As I come to class prepared, I expect all students to be prepared as well, with homework completed and all necessary tools to work productively in class.

“You shall not disrupt my teaching or anyone's learning!” ~ Class Rule

* Large projects and some tests may be worth a double score.

***Participation consists of coming to class prepared with homework complete, books, notebooks, pens and pencils; ready to work as well as participating in class and group discussions and activities.*

CURRICULUM

Semester I

A. Books/Poetry

1. Haunting of Hill House
2. Midsummer Night's Dream
3. Selected poems (Haikus & Diamante)

B. Writing

1. Narrative (rewrite ending)
2. Persuasive writing
3. Poetry
4. Journal writing

C. Grammar

1. Sentence parts/Fragments/Run-ons
2. Punctuation
3. Capitalization
4. Homonyms
5. Prepositions
6. Verbs
7. Conjunctions
8. Clauses

D. Literary terms

1. Atmosphere
2. Imagery
3. Speaker
4. Tone
5. Symbolism
6. Conflict
7. Farce
8. Alliteration
9. Fantasy
10. Meter
11. Parody
12. Satire

E. Independent Books

1. 1 book per quarter (2/semester)
2. 1 project for each book each quarter (2/semester)

Semester II

A. Books/Poetry

1. Travels With Charlie
2. Various text on mythology

B. Writing

1. Research Paper (science topic)
2. Informative/explanatory writing
3. Ballad & Free Verse poetry
4. Journal writing

C. Grammar

1. Nouns
2. Pronouns
3. Adjectives
4. Adverbs
5. Daily Oral Language practice

D. Literary Terms

1. Autobiography
2. Biography
3. Style
4. Subplot
5. Fiction
6. Nonfiction
7. Myths
8. Legends
9. Folklore
10. Folktale
11. Free Verse
12. Oral traditions

E. Independent Books

1. 1 book per quarter (2/semester)
2. 1 project for each book each quarter (2/semester)

Language Arts Expectations & Procedures

Mrs. Theresa Cyr

(You shall not disrupt my teaching or anyone's learning!)

Expectations:

- RESPECT! One person speaks at a time.
- I will only call on students who raise their hand.
- Assignments are due when they're due.
- All laptops will remain closed and in their cases until students are told to use them.
- Students are to be in the classroom before the bell rings.
- Students are to sign out **every time** they've been given permission to leave the classroom.
- Students need to use the rest rooms and get a drink of water **PRIOR** to the start of class. Students are allowed to bring a bottle of unflavored water with them to class.

Warm-up & End of Block Procedures:

1. Students will sit in their seats and following the warm-up instructions on the board, or handed to him or her, even if the bell hasn't rung yet.
2. Students are to remain in their seats until excused by the teacher. **The bell does not excuse the class**

The following are the procedures for behavior and homework issues.

Behavior	Uncompleted Homework
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 1st offense – Warning➤ 2nd offense – call home and 15 minutes after school➤ 3rd offense – call home and 30 minutes after school➤ 4th offense – Referred to office for Saturday Detention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Call home and a zero for the assignment. *

*If student has been absent, he or she has until the **very next day** to check with me to pick up his or her ASSIST Sheet. If student doesn't make the effort to pick up homework, then the grade becomes a **zero** students will need to check with me for his or her homework the **very next day**, or the grade becomes a **zero**.

Parental/Guardian Permission Slip
For Project Display on Internet

I am the parent/guardian of _____, and hereby give permission to **Mrs. Theresa Cyr** to display my child's language arts projects on the Madawaska Middle High School's Internet webpage, or the middle school's Voices from the Middle newspaper during the **2011-2012** academic year. Items may include book projects, material that he/she has written, and may also include photographs of my child hard at work.

Placing a checkmark here indicates that I give permission for my child to be identified by his/her initials ONLY.

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian

If you approve to have your child's work displayed as described above, please date and sign above and have it returned to me. Thank you.