



# Southern Lehigh School District

Middle School Syllabus

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## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts (128) 2014-2015

### Course Description:

This course focuses on multiple aspects of studying the English language and encourages students to develop a voice in both written and oral communication. The students read various novels, poems, short stories, and dramas throughout the year. As well as comprehension, the students learn critical thinking skills and literary analysis. Based on the six Write Traits, students develop as writers by studying grammar, producing essays, stories, poems, and other writing assignments. Another main area of the course is vocabulary, particularly how to utilize new words in written and verbal contexts.

### Course Content:

1. Grammar
2. Vocabulary
3. Writing
4. Poetry
5. The Novel
6. Drama
7. Short Stories

### Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

Possible titles from the curriculum:

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell.

*Inherit the Wind* by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee.

*Junior Great Books Roundtable Series: Level 3*. Great Books Foundation, 2010.

*Anthem* by Ayn Rand.

*War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells.

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.

*Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare.

*Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare.

*Heath Grammar and Composition: Course 2*. McDougal Littell, 1990.

*Newsela.com*

*Study Island*

### Course Requirements:

Students are expected to come to class prepared with all necessary materials and complete all assignments on time. If a student is absent, it is the student's responsibility to see make up missed work. Please refer to the policies in the student handbook for additional information.

Grade Components/Assessments:

Grades will be based on homework, quizzes, tests, projects, essays, and writing responses.

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student's overall grade. The midterm and final exam are each worth 10% of a student's overall average:

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
<b>Midterm</b>	<b>10%</b>
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
<b>Final</b>	<b>10%</b>

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

Students choose 1 Nonfiction and 1 Fiction option (total of 2 books).

1. Nonfiction (choose 1)

- [\*An American Plague: the true and terrifying story of the yellow fever epidemic of 1793\* by Jim Murphy](#)
- [\*Profiles in Courage\* by John F. Kennedy](#)
- [\*Chinese Cinderella\* by Adeline Yen Mah](#)

2. Fiction (choose 1)

- [\*Nothing But the Truth\* by Avi](#)
- [\*Criss Cross\* by Lynne Ray Perkins](#)
- [\*Rules of the Road\* by Joan Bauer](#)