



Southern Lehigh School District

Middle School Syllabus

7th Grade Academic Literacy (027) 2014-2015

Course Description:

In this course, students explore a variety of reading materials used to expand reading and research skills, comprehension, and interest. They are exposed to reading strategies that promote best practices as well as established philosophies. In order to solidify these critical reading skills and grow as independent readers, this course provides opportunities for students to practice literacy skills and strategies in conjunction with developing writing skills. Students are also offered opportunities to participate in independent and collaborative interest driven research projects.

Course Content:

- Reading Nonfiction: Text Features/Text Structure
- Biographies/Autobiographies
- Informational Writing/Research

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials by unit:

Biography/Autobiography/Memoir

1. *My Thirteenth Winter* by Samantha Abeel
2. *Che Guevara: You Win or Die* by Stuart A. Kallen
3. *The Boy Who Harnassed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer
4. *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer
5. *Temple Grandin: How the Girls Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World* by Sy Montgomery

Issues in 21st Century Food and Nutrition

1. *Your Food Is Fooling You: How Your Brain Is Hijacked by Sugar, Fat, and Salt* by David A. Kessler
2. *Omnivores Dilemma (Young Readers Edition)* by Michael Pollan
3. *Chew On This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food* by Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson
4. *Where Am I Eating? An Adventure Through the Global Food Economy* by Kelsey Timmerman

Human Brain Unit

1. *Phineas Gage: Awesome But True Story About Brain Science* by John Fleischman
2. *A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future* by Daniel Pink

Cultures & Colonialism

1. *IraqiGirl: Diary of a Teenage Girl in Iraq* by IragiGirl
2. *Three Cups of Tea (Young Readers Edition)* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
3. *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park
4. *Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed the World* by Warren St. John
5. *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

Independent Reading

Students will be expected to complete monthly independent reading assignments using the Newsela Pro program.

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:

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% |
| Midterm | 10% |
| Quarter 3 | 20% |
| Quarter 4 | 20% |
| Final | 10% |

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

To reference summer reading requirements please visit the Parent Resources page on the Middle School website.