



Southern Lehigh School District

Middle School Syllabus

7th Grade Gifted Language Arts (147) 2014-2015

Course Description:

This is a differentiated Language Arts course for students with a Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP). Although all gifted students may not be gifted in the area of Language Arts, research shows that gifted students benefit from learning together (Brulles, et al. 2010; Kulik, 2003; Rogers, 2002), and students identified as having high ability better understand and accept their learning differences when there are others in the class who share similar traits (Delisle & Galbraith, 2002). Learning together on a daily basis can encourage these students to pursue in-depth study of their interests.

This course focuses on:

- Developing the students' abilities to clearly and effectively express themselves in various forms of written and oral communication.
- Expanding the students' abilities to recognize and analyze evidence in order to form conclusions.
- Enhancing the students' appreciation and understanding of literature and poetry.

Study is centered on developing the student's writing skills through continual reading and writing activities. Students will learn to express themselves in various modes of writing, such as: Informative, Argumentative, Creative, and Expository. Students will be reading several forms of fiction including short stories, plays, magazines/newspapers, and novels. Oral presentation skills are developed through regular classroom presentations and discussions as well as through in-class projects. Writing topics will vary throughout the year with an emphasis on grammar and revision. Another main area of the course is vocabulary, particularly how to utilize new words in written and verbal contexts as well as preparation for the SAT.

Course Content:

1. Grammar
2. Vocabulary
3. Writing
4. Poetry
5. Novels
6. Journalism
7. Short Stories
8. Public Speaking

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

Heath Grammar and Composition, Second Course.

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

Prentice Hall Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes.

Study Island

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton
The Pearl by John Steinbeck
The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin
Word Masters Vocabulary Challenge

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, participation, 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%
Midterm	10%
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
Final	10%

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

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Guts by Gary Paulsen and "On the Road and Between the Pages, an Author is Restless for Adventure" by Anne Goodwin Sides

Choose 2 of the choices below w/corresponding articles

1. *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio and "Learning 'Wonder' of Being Different; Schoolkids 'Choose Kind' Making the Grade" by John Martin
2. *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick and "Bullying Hurts" by Kimberly Feltes
3. *So B. It* by Sarah Weeks and "To Be Young and Anxiety Free" by Andrea Petersen
4. *Schooled* by Gordon Korman and "Peer Pressure Power" by Lynn Brunelle

*Same assignment as Gifted Academic Literacy 047