



Southern Lehigh School District

Middle School Syllabus

7th Grade Honors Language Arts (137) 2014-2015

Course Description:

Students who meet qualifications for taking this Honors Language Arts course should enjoy reading and writing and possess the ability to complete independent assignments. This class moves at a rigorous, fast pace. The course reaches beyond basic skills and focuses on higher-level tasks in reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and oral communication.

The primary goal of Language Arts class is to develop the student's ability to clearly and effectively express themselves in various forms of written and oral communication. Students will also explore a variety of reading materials used to expand reading skills, comprehension, and interest. They will be exposed to research-based reading strategies to better equip them as active readers.

Using the Write Traits as their guide, students will learn to express themselves in various text types, such as: informative/explanatory, argumentative, and narrative. Writing topics will vary throughout the year, and students will often have the opportunity to explore topics of their choosing. Oral presentation skills are developed through regular classroom presentations and discussions, as well as through in-class projects.

Students are graded on achievement, but are given ample opportunity to revise their work. Writing assignments are graded using a rubric. Effort, class participation, and homework and project completion are key to academic success in this class.

Course Content:

Narrative Writing Unit (Life Map/Life Moment)

Poetry Unit

Short Story Unit

Grammar Study

Vocabulary Study

Novel Study

PSSA/Writing Prompt Preparation

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

Possible titles from the curriculum:

Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life by Wendy Mass

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

The Pigman by Paul Zindel

Okay for Now by Gary Schmidt

Dear Blue Sky by Mary Sullivan

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

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

Summer reading requirements can be found on the Southern Lehigh Middle Library webpage via the following link: <http://www.slsd.org/webpages/crobbins/index.cfm?subpage=238770>.