



Southern Lehigh School District

Middle School Syllabus

8th Grade Gifted Language Arts (148) 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 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 as well as preparation for the SAT.

Course Content:

1. Grammar
2. Vocabulary
3. Writing
4. Poetry
6. Novels
7. Dramas
8. Short Stories
9. Nonfiction/Research
10. Public Speaking

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

Animal Farm by George Orwell.

Anthem by Ayn Rand.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

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

Impact Short Stories

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

Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare.

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

Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Washington Irving.

Lord of the Flies by William Golding.

Newsela.com Pro

Prentice Hall Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes.

Study Island

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare.
War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells
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:

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|----------------|------------|
| Quarter 1 | 20% |
| Quarter 2 | 20% |
| Midterm | 10% |
| Quarter 3 | 20% |
| Quarter 4 | 20% |
| Final | 10% |

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

All students will read *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

In addition, students will choose 1 nonfiction and 1 fiction book to read and complete 5 journal entries for each book.

Nonfiction choices

- *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

Fiction(choose1)

- *Nothing But the Truth* by Avi
- *Criss Cross* by Lynne Perkins
- *Rules of the Road* by Joan Baue