

Bracken Co. Middle School
8th Grade Language Arts
2008-2009

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Description:

This class is designed to equip students with the tools needed to become strategic readers and to develop a greater understanding of grammar/writing. Through exposure to various types of texts, students will use and become comfortable with a wide array of reading and vocabulary strategies that will enable them to continue on the pathway of lifelong learning. Students will reflect on readings through writing to learn activities and will examine grammar and correct usage through context of class texts as well as their own writings

Comments:

The goals of this class are for students to enhance their reading abilities and to learn about the different types of writing and their functions. Through the examination of various types of writing, students will be able to create samples of their own including persuasive pieces, poetry, and personal narratives. Reading, analyzing, critical thinking, group work, and decision-making are all crucial components of this class.

Course Standards: Students will

- Formulate opinions in response to reading a passage.
- Critically analyze a variety of literary genres.
- Interpret abstract and meaningful terms in meaningful context.
- Critique the author's word choice, style, content, and use of literary elements.
- Demonstrate effective word choice, strong verbs and nouns, concrete and or sensory details, language appropriate to the content, purpose, and intended audience, concise use of language, and correct use of grammar.
- Locate, evaluate, and apply information for a realistic purpose.
- Analyze the content as it applies to students' lives and or real world issues.

Textbook:

Prentice Hall Literature, Penguin Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall
Writing and Grammar, Silver Level, Pearson Prentice Hall

Grade Calculation:

Students will be assessed on assignments, participation, projects, tests and quizzes. Students will have assignments both in and out of class and are expected to turn in all work when the assignment is due. Students who do not turn in assignments will receive only partial credit, a discipline mark, and may not receive any recess and/or Friday Break until missing assignments are turned in. Assignments will only be accepted for late grade up to one day late. Although students will be required to complete missing assignments during recess until they are turned in, students will not receive graded credit for the assignments if the assignment is more than one school day late. In addition to regular assignments, throughout each unit, students may be given projects to complete. Students will be given both tests and quizzes.

Participation and Attendance:

Students with excused absences who present a green not on returning to class, will be allowed to make up missed work for full credit. Students with unexcused absences and who present a red note will still be expected to turn in the work but they will not receive credit for those missed assignments.

Required Materials:

- ✓ Folder used only for Language Arts
- ✓ Notebook used only for Language Arts
- ✓ Book covers for Writing book and Literature book
- ✓ Writing Utensils
- ✓ Post it flags
- ✓ highlighter

Classroom Rules and Procedures:

High expectations for behavior and academics will be upheld in the Language Arts classroom. Rules are as follows:

- Be responsible for themselves
- Be respectful of others. (**SPECIAL NOTE: These two rules encompass any other rule that is not specifically mentioned.**)
- Students must be prepared for class (this includes materials, homework, and attitude)
- Be awake and alert
- Be positive and encourage others

All rules are stated in student agenda/handbook, as well as posted in the classroom. Students will generally receive a warning for their first infraction, depending on the severity of the offense. If the student has to be called down a second time, they will receive a mark on the discipline chart. If the student has to be called down a third time, they will receive an additional punishment, or be sent to the principal's office.

Calendar of Course Content: TENTATIVE ONLY—subject to change as needed**I. August- December**

- ✓ Introduction to classroom procedures and 8th grade memory book 1 week
- ✓ Strategic Reading/Writing—fiction and nonfiction (informing) 4 weeks
- ✓ The Art of Poetry and real world applications 3 weeks
- ✓ Mysteries, The Unexplained, and other readings/writings(narrating) 4 weeks
- ✓ Young Adult Fiction-The Giver 3-4 weeks
- ✓ Short Story- “Flowers for Algernon” 2 weeks

II. January –May

- ✓ Persuasive Speech, editorials and other writing(persuading) 4 weeks
- ✓ Folklore/ Multicultural Literature 4 weeks
- ✓ Drama/ Play- *The Diary of Anne Frank* 3 weeks
- ✓ To Kill A Mockingbird- A coming of Age Novel 5 weeks

* On Demand and Open Response Writing will be modeled and practiced throughout the school year and included within each unit shown above.