

Language Arts Syllabus
North St. Paul – Maplewood – Oakdale School District 622
John Glenn Middle School

Full Year Course

Standards Met:

MN Academic Standards in Integrated Language Arts

- Please refer to the district website www.isd622.org under the **Teaching and Learning** link for specific MN Standards for Language Arts.

Course Description:

Reading and writing, listening and speaking skills are emphasized in seventh grade language arts. Students are encouraged to select appropriate books to read for information, enjoyment and personal growth. The writing process of prewriting, drafting, revising and editing are practiced throughout the year. Spelling, vocabulary, punctuation, grammar and usage are taught as an integral part of the writing process.

Classroom resources: paperback libraries, language handbooks, and literature anthologies

Curriculum:

1. The student will demonstrate an ability to read seventh-grade materials with accuracy, fluency, and comprehension at an appropriate reading rate.
2. The student will learn the definitions of new words through the use of a variety of strategies, including context clues, word structure, and dictionary use.
3. The student will recognize the influence of other languages on the English language.
4. The student will determine the meaning of unknown words using knowledge of common Greek and Latin roots, suffixes, and prefixes.
5. The student will comprehend written works using a variety of strategies, including predicting, connecting, and questioning.
6. The student will read and evaluate purpose, point of view, audience, and message.
7. The student will identify and analyze the relationships among elements of fiction genres and poetic writing, including setting, character, plot, conflict, resolution, narrator, figurative language, and tone.
8. The student will identify and understand recurring themes, citing evidence from the texts.
9. The student will write in a variety of forms, including but not limited to poetry, a narrative essay, an editorial, and directions.
10. The student will engage in a writing process with attention to organization, voice, sentence fluency, word choice, conventions, ideas, focus, and purpose.
11. The student will write narratives that develop setting, characters, dialogue, and conflicts using descriptive, concrete language to engage audiences.
12. The student will write structurally sound paragraphs and sentences.
13. The student will edit for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
14. The student will formulate questions and collect and assess relevant information to address these questions.
15. The student will be able to locate, interpret, cite sources, and synthesize information into a final product.
16. The student will define plagiarism, its consequences, and avoid its use.
17. The student will be able to speak effectively for a variety of purposes and will listen to, view, and evaluate oral communication.
18. The student will give an expository speech using appropriate public speaking skills.
19. The student will critically analyze information found in a variety of media sources, including advertising, news programs, web sites, and documentaries.

Course Outline:

Novel Unit: Nightjohn by Gary Paulsen or The Clay Marble by Minfong Ho
Writing Unit: Writing a Personal Narrative

- Short Story Unit:** – Elements of a short story unit
(read and analyze various short stories from text)
- Novel Unit:** Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick
- Writing Unit:** Writing an Editorial
- Mythology Unit:** Myths, Legends, and Folktales unit
(read and analyze various selections from text)
- Speech Unit:** Expository speeches
- Novel Unit:** Beowulf: A New Telling by Robert Nye
- Writing Unit:** Writing Directions
- Poetry Unit:** Poetry unit
- Novel Unit:** The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Course requirements:

- Students are expected to come prepared for class each day with necessary materials: textbook, homework assignments, paper, pen/pencil, and a positive attitude for learning.
- Students are expected to complete assignments and turn them in on the day they are due.
- Students are expected to participate in class or small group discussions in a respectful, appropriate manner at all times.
- Students will be given two days per day absent to make up any missed class work. In the event of a pre-arranged absence, assignments should be completed upon the student's return to school.

Grading Procedures:

- Tests will be given after each unit of study.
- Grades are determined by overall cumulative points earned divided by the points possible from the following categories: Daily Assignments (including spelling, vocabulary, parts of speech, journals, discussions, participation, etc.), Major writing assignments and projects, Tests and Quizzes, and Reader's Workshop
- Late assignments will receive half credit only.
- Students' grades will be posted several times throughout the trimester.
- Students and Parents can "know" their grade at any time throughout the semester by accessing the Parent Portal as well.
- Grading Scale Ranges: A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=Below 60%

Text and Other Resource Material:

Elements of Literature (Holt, 2005) – This book is online as well and students will have an assigned username and password they will be given the first week or two of school. This password and username is good for their Health books, too.

Nightjohn by Gary Paulsen
Beowulf: A New Telling by Robert Nye
The Clay Marble by Minfong Ho

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick
The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton
Music, Pictures and Stories: A Poetry Anthology

Contact Information:

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