

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

Full Year Course

Standards met:

MN Academic Standards in *Language Arts*

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

Curriculum: (Essential Outcomes):

1. Demonstrate an ability to read eighth-grade materials with accuracy, fluency, and comprehension at an appropriate reading rate.
2. Expand his/her vocabulary by building on previous instruction and by adding additional strategies, including determining word meaning.
3. Identify and explain analogies, similes, and metaphors.
4. Analyze a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction text.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of a variety of texts at a literal and inferential level.
6. Evaluate an author's evidence in a persuasive text.
7. Read a variety of literature, including fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.
8. Identify and compare themes across literary works and historical eras.
9. Analyze the effects of literary elements in a variety of genres.
10. Write in a variety of forms, including but not limited to stories, persuasive essays, business letters, and journals.
11. Engage in a writing process with attention to organization, voice, sentence fluency, word choice, conventions, ideas, focus, and purpose.
12. Formulate a position or opinion and provide supporting arguments and evidence.
13. Apply appropriate grammar principles and editing techniques to their writing.
14. Locate and use information from a variety of sources.
15. Evaluate the usefulness and effectiveness of a variety of research materials.
16. Define plagiarism, its consequences, and avoid its use.
17. Speak effectively for a variety of purposes and listen, view, and evaluate oral communication.
18. Give a persuasive speech using appropriate public speaking skills.
19. Analyze and evaluate messages, points of view, and strategies found in a variety of media sources.
20. Evaluate content and the effect of persuasive techniques used in print and broadcast media.

Course Outline:

- Novel Unit: They Cage the Animals at Night
- Writing Unit: short stories
- Short Story Unit: Holt Literature textbook
- Novel Unit: Of Mice and Men
- Speech/Writing Unit: Justice Campaign
- Holocaust Unit: Ten Thousand Children, The Cage, Night, Holocaust Museum Project
- Ongoing Assignments: Weekly Vocabulary Lessons and Journal Topics

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.
- 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:

Literature textbook
Holt, Rinehart, and Winston
Copyright 2005

Of Mice and Men:
John Steinbeck
Penguin Books
Copyright 1937

They Cage the Animals at Night:
Jennings Michael Burch
Penguin Books
Copyright 1984

Ten Thousand Children:
Anne L. Fox & Eva Abraham-Podietz
Berhman House Publishers
Copyright 1999

The Cage:
Ruth Minsky Sender
Aladdin Paperbacks
Copyright 1986

Night:
Elie Wiesel
Original Copyright 1960, renewed 1988
by MacGibbon and Kee
©Holt, Rinehart and Winston

The Call of the Wild:
Jack London
Original Copyright 1903 by MacMillian
© Holt, Rinehart and Winston

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