

8th Grade Advanced Reading
2017-2018 School Year
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Message from the Teacher

Welcome to 8th grade advanced reading. Reading is thinking; therefore, we will read, discuss, and write every day. Be prepared to learn and be an active participant. My goal is to have students gain an appreciation of literature by making reading fun, exciting, and engaging yet focusing on deeper content, higher-level thinking and reading strategies, vocabulary development, and written and oral response to literature.

Communication

- The best way to communicate with me is via email (see above).
- You can also follow me on Twitter @wallachm

Course Description

8th grade advanced reading is a class based upon Common Core Standards for Language Arts in Pennsylvania. This course is specifically designed with the advanced, self-motivated, and independent learner in mind that can keep pace with the classwork and rigorous workload. This class will have a greater emphasis on nonfiction text and current events.

Student Textbooks & Materials

The Language of Literature - McDougal Littell (Red Level)

Possible Novels for This School Year:

Manhunt by James Swanson

Soldier X Don Wulffson

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

1984 by George Orwell

****Other supplemental readings as deemed appropriate during the school year.****

Required Student Supplies

- “Reader’s Notebook” divided into 3 sections: Warm-ups, Notes/Vocabulary, and Response Log (no need to have a 3-section notebook; any notebook can be divided)
- Folder, highlighter, glue stick, sticky notes, and reading book
- Other materials as assigned

Major Course Objectives

- The student will be able to identify the various purposes and genres of reading.
- The student will be able to understand, to analyze, and to evaluate readings from a variety of texts and to apply that learning to academic, personal, and professional contexts.
- The student will be able to identify, analyze, and evaluate the use of various literary terms and techniques within text.

- The student will be able to increase, analyze, and evaluate vocabulary by reading a variety of texts and utilizing various vocabulary strategies as well as responding appropriately to text by using supporting evidence.
- The student will be able to engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions on topics, texts, issues, or others' ideas and express their own clearly.
- The student will move through the course content with an emphasis on independence and self-directed learning.
- The student will be able to meet and master the common core and state standards for reading and writing.

Major Projects

1st Marking Period - creating an artifact from the Civil War time period for inclusion in our Lincoln museum

2nd Marking Period - creating a project related and connected to text

3rd Marking Period - creating a project related and connected to text

4th Marking Period - creating a theme/defense essay and a comparison essay based on the texts

Teacher Homework Policy

Students are expected to use their planner every day to write down their homework assignments. Homework is typically assigned approximately three times a week and may or may not be graded. If homework is collected and graded, students have an opportunity to turn in a missed homework assignment the next day for half credit unless we have already discussed the work in class.

Teacher Grading Policy

Grades are based on total points accumulated out of total points possible in the quarter. Assignments include, but are not limited to, class participation, tests, projects, quizzes, homework, responsibility, notebook checks, and group activities. All assignments are graded in a timely fashion and posted to parent portal. If a student is absent, that student will have as many days as absent to make up the assignment; however, it is the student's responsibility to get and complete their make-up work. All late work is deducted 10% for each day late.

Classroom Management Plan

| Student Expectations | Consequences |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Be here...be ready | Verbal warning |
| Be respectful | Student-teacher conference |
| Be responsible | Teacher detention |
| Follow instructions the first time | Parent/Guardian contact |
| Follow all classroom procedures | Code of conduct referral |

**Teacher will give 24 hour notice and detentions will be served in my classroom after school from 3:05-3:25.

Extra Help

I am available for extra help after school Monday through Thursday, from 3:00-3:25 unless meetings are scheduled. Students need to check with me before staying after.