

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

Welcome to 8th grade reading. Reading is thinking; therefore, we will read, discuss, and write every day. Be prepared to be an active participant. My goal is to have students gain an appreciation of literature by making reading fun, exciting, and engaging while still focusing on higher-level thinking skills, vocabulary development, and critical 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 reading is a class based upon Common Core Standards for Language Arts in Pennsylvania.

Student Textbooks & Materials

The Language of Literature - McDougal Littell (Red Level)

Possible Novels for This School Year:

Curveball by Jordan Sonnenblick
The Contender by Robert Lipsyte
Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James Swanson
Soldier X by Don Wulffson
The Giver by Lois Lowry
Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

****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 an independent 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 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 writing/project connected to the text

3rd Marking Period - creating a character project connected to the text

4th Marking Period - creating a theme essay connected to the text

Teacher Homework Policy

Students are expected to use their planner every day to write down their homework assignments. Homework is typically assigned two-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 rules/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 most days after school Monday through Thursday, from 3:05-3:25 unless meetings are scheduled. Please see teacher first for availability.