

Language Arts 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students will learn to read critically with full comprehension across genres and be able to communicate through effective writing. As students develop critical reading and writing skills, they will make important life connections through the variety of material they study. Additionally, students will practice vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills with each weekly lesson. All material will be connected to a universal theme for each unit: Tolerance, Determination, Social Justice, Times of War, Search for Self, and Cultural Traditions. As students encounter a variety of text structures and multi-media, they will be able to see how these different things connect to one large idea and see how these large ideas connect across other content areas being studied. Each student will be required to engage in activities and assessments that require critical thinking skills and that meet rigorous academic expectations. As students complete this course, hopefully they will see the relevance that this course has in their daily life and future academic and career goals.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Read new and challenging texts with proficiency across genres
- Understand and use the writing process for all writing tasks with ease (prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing)
- Recognize and analyze the use of literary devices and identify literary elements
- Conduct research using multiple resources to reinforce a thesis
- Master language usage and rules of grammar in writing
- Master language usage effective oral communication
- Identify a theme of a text and the author's purpose
- Determine a writing purpose, audience awareness, tone, and voice, through a variety of writing assignments
- Infer word meaning through the use of reading strategies
- Defend ideas, conclusions, generalizations, and inferences
- Create a multimedia presentation and use a variety of electronic tools
- Work collaboratively with a team to accomplish shared goals
- Demonstrate a sense of social responsibility with regard to communication etiquette, research sources, and producing original work

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE LENGTH: Two semesters

REQUIRED TEXT: None

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COURSE OUTLINE:

Writing

- The Writing Process – Effective Prewriting Strategies, The Art of Drafting, Peer Editing and Self-Evaluation, Revision, Editing and Language Usage, Publishing
- Writing Purposes: to inform, to persuade, to entertain
- Word Choice
- Voice
- Effective Organization and Transition
- Tone
- Point-of-View
- Conducting Research
- Plagiarism & Integrity

Reading & Literature

- Study of Themes
- Reading Comprehension Strategies – pre reading, word study, during reading questions, summary, making predictions, making inferences, work attack
- Genres and Text Structure, poetry, biography, memoirs, short story, novel, news article, transcripts, documentary, play, scientific article, historical fiction, science fiction, fantasy, monologue, and essay
- Literary Analysis & Author Purpose
- Vocabulary in Content

Language Usage

- Sentence structure
- Transitional words and phrases
- Commonly Misused & Misspelled Words
- Subject and Verb Agreement
- Rules of Correct Punctuation and Capitalization

Speaking & Listening

- Preparing & Delivering Oral Presentations
- Communicating Effectively in a Team/Group
- Internet Etiquette
- Family
- Food
- Pastimes
- School Objects & Routine