

STEM School
6th grade Language Arts
2011-2012



Teacher: Mrs. Reese

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Course Objectives:

- Collaborate effectively as group members or leaders who listen actively and respectfully pose thoughtful questions, acknowledge the ideas of others, and contribute ideas to further the group's attainment of an objective
- Demonstrate skill in inferential and evaluative listening
- Seek feedback, self-assess, and reflect on personal learning while engaging with increasingly more difficult texts
- Engage in a wide range of nonfiction and real-life reading experiences to solve problems, judge the quality of ideas, or complete daily tasks
- Interpret how the structure of written English contributes to the pronunciation and meaning of complex vocabulary
- Effectively use content-specific language, style, tone, and text structure to compose or adapt writing for different audiences and purposes
- Write with a clear focus, coherent organization, sufficient elaboration, and detail
- Apply standard English conventions to effectively communicate with written language
- Exercise ethical conduct when writing, researching, and documenting sources
- Discriminate and justify a position using traditional lines of rhetorical argument and reasoning
- Gather information from a variety of sources; analyze and evaluate the quality and relevance of the source; and use it to answer complex questions

Books:

Holt McDougal Literature grade 8

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Twelfth Night by Shakespeare

Topics:

Short Stories

Novels

Drama

Poetry

Essays

Supplies:

Paper

Pencil or black or blue pen

Writing utensil that is NOT black, gray, or blue
laptop
Independent reading book MUST be brought to class every day

Independent Reading:

Students are responsible for reading a book each quarter at home, and then completing a project over the book. Students must select a book from my classroom library, or the public library and have it approved by me. They must also keep a reading log for each book, and select an assignment from the “Pick Your Project” paper. After selecting a project, students should ask me for the rubric. LATE PROJECTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!

Grades:

Assessments: 30%
Classwork: 30%
Homework: 15%
IR Project: 15%
Finals: 10%

90%~100%= A
80%~89 % = B
70%~79 % = C
60%~69% = D
59% and below = F

Late Work:

Students are able to turn in 7 late assignments per quarter for full credit. Any other late work will not be graded. Tests and Independent Reading projects may NOT be turned in late unless you have an excused absence.

Absences:

Unplanned absences: Students for each day that students have an EXCUSED absence, they will be given one day to make up missing work. Students are responsible for getting missing work before or after school.

Planned absences: If you know in advance that you will be absent, ask for your homework and I will give it to you. Assignments are due the first day that you return to class.

Tardies:

To be on time, you must be seated and working on your journal.

Class Rules:

1. Respect yourself and others at all times.
2. Be prepared for class and ready to learn.
3. Do your best!

Academic Integrity:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Cheating is the act of copying work from another source without the teacher's permission, and plagiarism is using more than 2 consecutive words from another source without citation. Students who cheat or plagiarize will earn a 0 for the assignment.

Procedures:

At the beginning of class

Come in quietly. Open your journal document and begin writing.

Before leaving class:

Write your homework assignment in your planner. Next place any in-progress assignments in your classroom folder. Then sit down and wait for dismissal.

Food and Drink

No food will be allowed in class unless it is given from the teacher or with permission. Students may have drinks in a bottle with a lid. Gum is allowed until I find it anywhere other than the trash can.

Laptops:

Laptops are to be used only for schoolwork and as directed by the teacher. Students who misuse computer privileges will be required to turn off their computer for the remainder of the class, and will earn a 0 for the incomplete assignment.

Other Electronics:

Cell phones and all other electronics should be kept on silent in students' bags unless otherwise requested by the teacher.

Content of the syllabus may be changed by the teacher at any time, with or without prior notice.

Your first assignment: (10 points)

I, _____, certify that I have read and understand the above syllabus in its entirety. I agree to follow the rules outlined. I am aware of the latework and laptop policies.

Student's signature

Date

I, _____, certify that I have read and understand the above syllabus in its entirety. I am aware of the latework and laptop policies.

Parent's/Guardian's signature

Date