

Dear Families,

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA, we hope to support our students' development as critical and analytical readers and writers through writer's workshop and multiple opportunities for them to engage with a variety of texts. By the end of this school year, our students will be prepared to enter high school with the skills they need in order to be successful in and out of the classroom.

Our ELAR TEKS emphasize reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking all the time! They will be reading a variety of texts and writing every day. Furthermore, students will have a reading and writing assessments that will be given after each reading and writing unit. The reading assessment will focus on skills specific to STAAR testing.

We encourage you to speak with your students about what they are reading, writing, and learning in class. Be sure to continually review their performance via Skyward Access.

Here is an overview of the school year:

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Six Weeks: Focus on Analytical Skills</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading and analyzing short stories</li> <li>• Writing short constructed responses</li> </ul>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Six Weeks: Focus on Literary Analysis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading and analyzing short literary texts</li> <li>• Writing a literary analysis essay focused on author's craft</li> </ul>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Six Weeks: Focus on Argumentative</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading and analyzing argumentative texts</li> <li>• Writing an argumentative essay</li> </ul>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks: Focus on Historical Fiction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading and analyzing historical fiction and multimodal texts with book club texts</li> <li>• Writing short and extended constructed responses</li> </ul>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks: Focus on Cross Genres</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading and analyzing the connections between informational, poetry, fiction, and nonfiction texts</li> <li>• Writing short and extended constructed responses</li> </ul>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks: Focus on Multi-Genre Research</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researching a chosen topic and curating texts across multiple genres</li> <li>• Creating a multi-modal presentation</li> </ul>

We look forward to working with you this year!

Respectfully,

EMS ISD 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teachers