



8th Grade Literature Pre-AP

Stacy Daniels

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Conference Period: 3rd period 10:04-10:49

Tutoring Opportunities: before school 7:45AM-8:10AM and after school 3:30PM-4:00PM Monday-Thursday

Class Materials:

- Various texts in classroom library
- Composition notebook, notebook paper, folder with pockets and brads, pencils, pens, book of student's choice

Course Description:

English Language Arts and Reading: Students will engage in activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills. Students will read extensively in multiple genres, such as stories, dramas, novels, and poetry from literature. Students learn literary forms and terms and interpret the possible influences of the historical context on a literary work. 8th grade students will take the Reading State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) exam in the spring.

Course Goals:

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

Increase complexity and volume of independent reading and writing; refine understanding of genres to create a reference guide; build reading stamina; revise to constantly improve their writing; understand the power of literacy through inquiry, reading, writing, and research; respond to reading and writing through textual evidence; switch from reading literary and informational texts flexibility.

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 60% Major 40% Minor
- Major grades – tests (including District Common Assessments, six weeks assessments, projects, final essays, research papers, presentations); minimum three per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, journals; minimum four per six weeks
- Semester exams will count 1/7 of the semester grade
- A letter system (S, N, U) is used to report a student's conduct based on proper/responsive conduct and citizenship
- Per Board Policy EIA (LOCAL), "The District shall permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a **failing** grade. This policy applies only to initial identified major grades and does not apply to daily assignments, quizzes, six-week test, and semester final examinations. Upon reteach and retest, the new test, project, etc. recorded will be a high score of 70%.

Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:

Any daily work not completed in class will need to be completed outside of class time. Students are encouraged to study for upcoming exams and read independently to improve their reading skills.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

I will strictly follow the EMS-ISD grading policy for late work. If work is turned in 1 school day late, the maximum score for this assignment is 85%. If work is turned in 2 school days late, the maximum score for this assignment is 70%. If work is turned in 3 school days late, the maximum score for this assignment is 60%. No late work will be accepted after 3 school business days, and a zero will be recorded in my grade book. I will strictly follow the EMS-ISD grading policy for make-up work when a student is absent (excused). Students will have time equal to days absent from class plus one day to complete all missed assignments. Please see Mrs. Daniels to inquire of any work or material missed. Students are expected to be on time to class daily. Students will be marked as tardy if they are not in their assigned seat when the bell rings. If being tardy becomes a problem, I will enforce logical consequences.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Be seated and prepared with all supplies when the bell rings. 2. Electronic devices off and away unless permission is given by Mrs. Daniels. 3. Respect your teacher, school, and peers. 4. Complete all work and turn it in on time! 5. All school rules and policies will be enforced within the classroom.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

Throughout the year, we will focus on different genres of reading and writing.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity values the work of individuals regardless if it is another student's work, a researcher, or author. The pursuit of learning requires each student to be responsible for his or her academic work. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in our schools. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee and considers written materials, observation, or information from students. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary and/or academic penalties. The teacher and campus administrator shall jointly determine such action.