

8th Grade ELA Syllabus

Mrs. Heather Clark

heather.clark@sumnerschools.org

Google Classroom code: wwreOqc

Eighth grade English Language Arts is a class designed to help you read, think, and write analytically and effectively. It focuses on an introduction to literary genres (fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama) and the writing of formal and informal essays. While we will use short fiction, novels, non-fiction as contexts to develop these skills, the techniques are applicable to all areas of writing, whether for business, industry, government, etc. Universities and employers want students and employees who read, communicate, think, and reason. While working on those skills, we will also be reading a wide range of writers and encounter critical terms which will foster a sophisticated appreciation and discussion of literature.

8th ELA has four objectives:

1. to offer experience in analytical writing.
2. to exercise and strengthen your skills in incorporating clear and credible sources into their writing.
3. to provide an introduction to literature through close examination of short stories, novels, non-fiction, drama, and plays.
4. to read, reflect, and write independently.

Journal Entries:

Students will be responsible for journal reflections each quarter. A short story or article will be sent home for the student to read and annotate independently. After a discussion in class, students will be responsible for writing a reflection about the article or short story as assigned by Mrs. Clark. Journal entries are used to help guide your reading and to make sure students keep up with discussions over the text in class. Entries are required to be **one to two pages handwritten in their journals**.

Essays:

Students will be required to write narrative, expository, and argumentative essays throughout the year. All essays are to be typed and double-spaced, 2 pages in length, with pages stapled and numbered. Please turn in all pre-writing activities such as brainstorming, rough drafts, edited typed drafts, etc. I prefer Times New Roman font 12 for final copies.

Grading Scale:

A= 93-100 B= 85-92 C= 75-84 D= 70-74 F= Below 70

Outside Reading: Research shows that one of the best ways to become a better reader is to read books of your choice. With that goal in mind, students will be responsible for choosing books either from the T.W. Hunter Library or from home to read outside of class. Students will set goals each quarter and log how many pages they have read each day and get it signed by a parent. A competition will be held between individual students for number of pages read by the end of the nine weeks.

Grading Percentages:

Tests: 40%

Homework: 15%

Classwork(journal entries)/participation: 20%

Quizzes: 25%

My Expectations are that students will:

- come to class prepared
- be responsible for their own work and behavior
- respect themselves, their peers, and their instructors
- stay organized and turn in assignments on time
- come in for EXTRA HELP when needed
- keep up with any missing work resulting from absences
- stay on top of their daily homework whether that be reading, journaling, vocabulary exercises or writing assignments

5 point system- Each class will start each day with five points. A point will be erased for behavior. The class that reaches 100 points first in nine weeks will receive a class reward.

If you do your homework each night, come prepared for class and make an effort to participate, you should be very successful in 8th grade ELA. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

My email address is heather.clark@sumnerschools.org

Remind 101: <https://www.remind.com/join/c7dfk6>