

The course syllabus for
Language Arts - 8th Grade

Course Description

Language Arts is a comprehensive course that will take the students through a variety of units covering reading and writing concepts. Reading units will utilize nonfiction and fiction literature. Nonfiction literature will be used to assist students in understanding and identifying the common text structures used in expository text. Fiction literature will be used to review and reinforce comprehension skills and strategies to a proficient/advanced level.

Writing units will focus on grammar and composition skills. Focused practice in key language concepts will include units in vocabulary, sentence structure, grammar and usage, and capitalization and punctuation. Composition units will take students through the writing process as they explore writing for a variety of purposes.

Enduring Understandings

The student will:

1. Demonstrate mastery of the writing process by application of various types of writing: informational, persuasive, and narrative.
2. Read to develop and apply higher level thinking skills in order to interpret and analyze various types of written material: informative, narrative.
3. Apply speaking and listening skills to communicate effectively.
4. Apply knowledge of mechanics, usage, and organization to produce and evaluate writings: grammar, writing traits, and writing process.
5. Locate, document, summarize, and synthesize information using source materials.

Content Topics

Reading

Unit 1: Nonfiction text structures

Unit 2: Autobiography

Unit 3: Poetry

Unit 4: Realistic fiction

Unit 5: Science fiction

Unit 6: Horror

Writing

Unit 1: Writing to inform: research topic, problem/solution

Unit 2: Writing to inform: autobiography
Narrative writing: poetry

Unit 3: Writing to persuade: advertisements, speech topics

Unit 4: Narrative writing: science fiction/horror

Grammar

Unit 1: Vocabulary

Unit 2: Sentence structure

Unit 3: Grammar usage

Unit 4: Capitalization and punctuation

Assessments

Grades will be based on homework assignments, writing assignments, projects, reading responses, discussion participation, oral presentations, quizzes, and unit tests.

Course Materials

Text: Of Places (A Beka)

Novels may include but are not limited to:

The Hiding Place

Freak the Mighty

The Giver

Language and Usage Practice

Easy Grammar: Plus

Various related articles and reading passages