

6th Grade English Syllabus
2011-2012

Instructor

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Course Description

This course is designed to instill an appreciation for literature. You will be reading a variety of literary genres, such as realistic fiction, historical fiction, fantasy-horror, short stories, plays, poems, and non-fiction. Many of these works of literature will serve to connect what you are learning in English to what you are learning in History.

As you read a variety of literary genres you will also develop critical reading and writing skills through a variety of assignments, both formal and informal, academic and personal. You will learn to read closely, question the text, add your own insightful thinking, and transform your interpretations into writing. Types of writing assignments include personal, narrative, descriptive, persuasive, expository, and research based that emphasize audience, purpose, development, structure, tone, and conventions.

Finally, you will learn that writing is a process. You will learn to view revision as the journey of writing. Interestingly, in Latin, revision means to see again. Indeed, in this class you will approach revision as experimenting with what you already have, not just editing for grammar and spelling.

Learning Benchmarks

The student will...

Read and annotate the text actively to identify main ideas, themes, patterns, literary

elements/devis

Develop critical thinking skills by using prior knowledge, experience, and active reading strategies to make connections within the text and between texts

Comprehend reading on a literal level with a growing ability to analyze and interpret meaning, and convey that understanding in written form using evidence and examples from the text

Use a variety of compositional strategies, such as topic sentences, quotation

integration/cita

Understand and use the rules of grammar, punctuation, and syntax to convey ideas clearly

through writing

Course Materials

A Long Walk to Water, by Linda Sue Park

Crossing the Wire, by Will Hobbs

Esperanza Rising, by Pam Munoz Ryan

Ninth Ward, by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Coraline, by Neil Gaiman

A Midsummer Night's Dream, by William Shakespeare

Methods of Instruction

A variety of teaching methods will be used to engage the students. In-class discussions with guiding questions will be used to increase student awareness of important ideas and topics and to encourage student questions. The idea that writing is an ongoing process will be emphasized throughout the course. Students will learn to develop and organize ideas; develop thesis statements; and write, edit, and revise rough drafts. Meanwhile, active reading strategies will be taught to help students predict, ask questions, visualize, and make connections with what they know about the world.

Assessments

Student progress in this course will be assessed by in-class and out-of-class assignments, quizzes, exams, essays and presentations. Each assignment, assessment, and project is given a certain amount of points. The policy for late work in this class follows the policy outlined in *Middle School Student/Parent Handbook 2011-2012*.

Projected Course Schedule

Personal Narrative

Crossing the Wire

Esperanza Rising

Persuasive Essay

Short Stories

Coraline

Poetry

Ninth Ward

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Research Paper