

## 8th Grade Language Arts Syllabus

Mrs. Jeffers

2017-2018

Welcome to Priest River Junior High! This syllabus will be a guide to help you understand the curriculum for eighth grade Language Arts and to prepare you for a great year at Priest River Junior High.

### **Course Objectives:**

The objectives are to strengthen reading and writing skills. Students will practice and improve reading skills by completing reading comprehension exercises, practicing and using a variety of reading strategies, and incorporating Common Core State Standards that will help students be better prepared for high school, college, and a career.

### **Learning Targets:**

At the end of this course, you will .....

- Be able to write an informative, argumentative, and narrative essay
- Know how to cite text evidence to support your ideas
- Understand the different aspects of a drama
- Have a strengthened academic vocabulary
- Strengthen reading comprehension skills
- Know the expectations for behavior in a classroom

### **Required Background**

To successfully complete this course, you must.....

- Know basic sentence structure
- Be able to find textual evidence in a piece of literature
- Have basic reading comprehension skills
- Be able to act responsibly in a classroom

### **Course Schedule:** (Subject to change)

#### **Quarter One**

Novel: Esperanza Rising (Pam Munoz Ryan)

Writing: Informative Essay

Key Objectives: The student will be able to .....

- Apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, and appreciate the novel.
- Draw on their prior experience, their interaction with other readers and writers, and the knowledge of word meaning.
- Write and use different writing process elements to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.

Collection One – In this collection, you will explore how people develop their own identity within a new culture.

Key Objectives: The student will be able to .....

- Recognize and analyze the elements of a story's plot and author's methods of characterization.
- Analyze elements of a personal essay, including its purpose, structure, central idea, and supporting details.
- Use text features and graphic aids to understand a nonfiction text.
- Analyze imagery and figurative language to better understand a memoir.
- Recognize the elements used in a documentary
- Use imagery and allusion to make inferences about the deeper meaning of a poem.

#### **Quarter Two:**

Collection Two – In this collection, you will examine why the horror genre both terrifies and fascinates.

Writing: Informative Essay and Argumentative Essay

Key Objectives: The student will be able to .....

- Determine the point of view from which a story is told, evaluate the credibility of a narrator, and identify techniques used to create suspense in a fictional account.
- Analyze an essay to determine the author's viewpoint, counterarguments, and elements of language that contribute to the author's style.
- Determine and analyze a universal theme.

#### **Quarter Three:**

Collection Four- In this collection, you will explore the passage from childhood to adulthood.

Writing: Argumentative Writing and Compare and Contrast Writing

Key Objective: The student will be able to.....

- Identify the motivations of characters in a story and determine the factors that help him or her understand the theme of the story.
- Make inferences and determine the theme of a poem.
- Trace and evaluate arguments and evaluate supporting evidence to determine whether the evidence is relevant or irrelevant.

#### **Quarter Four:**

Collection Five – In this collection, you will learn about the lasting impact of a young girl and her diary.

Writing: Informative Essay and Creative Writing

Key Objectives: The student will be able to...

- Analyze the key elements of a drama, including its structure, characters, dialogue, and events.
- Analyze the elements of a diary entry, and make and support inferences about the text.

- Determine an author’s point of view in a work of literary criticism and analyze how the author’s word choices impact the tone of the text.
- Identify persuasive techniques and rhetorical devices in a speech.
- Analyze the use of sound devices in a poem to understand how they impact meaning.

**Resources:**

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt **Collections** Literature book

Performance Assessment workbook

Close Reader

Esperanza Rising (Pam Munoz Ryan)

Survivors – True Stories of Children in the Holocaust (Allan Zullo and Mara Bovsun)

## **Policies and Procedures**

**General Rules:**

- Students will be in their seats and ready to work when the bell rings
- Students will use the proper heading on all papers
- Students will fill out their agenda on a daily basis
- Students will use the pass in the back of their agendas to leave class
- Mutual RESPECT for all
- If you have something to say, please raise your hand.

**PRJH Non-Negotiable Expectations for Classroom Success**

- 1. Students will be in their seat ready to work when the bell rings.**
  - Students are given 2 tardies per quarter without penalty.
  - A student’s third tardy results in 3 days of lunch detention.
  - Each subsequent tardy results in an additional day of lunch detention.
- 2. The proper heading will be present on all papers.**
  - First and last name
  - Period
  - Assignment name
  - Date
- 3. Students must use their agenda to leave class.**
- 4. Students will be:**
  - Safe
  - Kind
  - Respectful
  - Responsible

**Grading Policies:**

We do **NOT** accept late assignments!

Grading Scale:

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D=69-69%

F=59% and below

**Contact Information**

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Please sign and return the bottom portion. Cut at the dotted line

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email: \_\_\_\_\_