

8th Grade Language Arts Syllabus

Mrs. Jeffers

2018-2019

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 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 1

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

Key Objectives: 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.

Writing: Argumentative Essay

Key Objectives: The student will be able to

- Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

Quarter 2:

Writing: Informative Essay

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content

Novel: Hitch by Jeanette Ingold

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.

Quarter 3

Writing: Argumentative Essay

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

- Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

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

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

- Analyze the key elements of a drama, including its structure, characters, dialogue, and events.
- Identify persuasive techniques and rhetorical devices in a speech.

Novel: *The Boy Who Dared* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

- 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.

Quarter Four:

Writing: Research/Expository Paper

Key Objectives: Students will be able to...

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content

Creative Reading Project

Key Objectives: Students will be able to...

- Analyze previous novels read in class to determine which piece of literature to use in a creative end-of-the-year project.
- Design a creative project that accurately reflects the plot of a novel, and translate it into an alternative form of literature.

Resources:

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt **Collections** Literature book

Performance Assessment workbook

Close Reader

Hitch (Jeanette Ingold)

The Boy Who Dared (Susan Campbell Bartoletti)

Policies and Procedures

General Rules:

- Students will be in their seats and ready to work when the bell rings
- Students will be prepared for class (Have all your materials and assignments)
- Students will be respectful of other people's belongings. Do not touch or move anything without the owner's permission.
- 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 their agendas to leave class
- Mutual RESPECT for all
- If you have something to say, please raise your hand
- Absolutely NO cell phones allowed in class
- No eating or drinking in class except Advisory. You may bring water bottles (water only)

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

Mrs. Jeffers

208-448-1118

denisejeffers@sd83.org

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

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent email: _____

