

# English/Language Arts for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

2023-2024 Session 4, Mondays/Wednesdays

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## Course Objective:

This course will provide learners a solid overview and practice of effective reading, writing, and communication skills. Although varied levels are expected, students should be adept at basic mechanics and read proficiently at or above a 6th grade level. (Or, plan to reread/review all reading assignments weekly). *Scholastic SCOPE* and/or *Junior Scholastic* magazines will be used (provided with online access and/or hard copies). The reading for session 1 will include mostly expository articles, although **students must have an independent novel**. A study of various types of writing will be explored and discussed; students will share and constructively critique each other's writing. By the end of the year, students will have completed 2-3 final draft essays. **Focus in Session 4 will be creative writing. Independent work is expected** (on average, two hours per week with nightly independent reading expected).

## Course Expectations:

- Attend all classes or let me know before class if you know you will be absent.
- Arrive on time and prepared to provide your best effort daily.
- Keep up with **independent reading** of a novel of choice (reading check-ins weekly).
- Be willing to discuss/share your work and assess your own progress.
- Complete your reading and writing assignments. **Check in on Edmodo regularly.**
- Materials needed: Spiral notebook, folder, highlighter, and pencil/pen.

## Syllabus:

*Sharing, poem and story discussion, peer review, and collaboration will be ongoing. Grammar, vocabulary and spelling will be practiced weekly. **The following syllabus is a GENERAL framework only**; class focus will adjust per students' needs, interests, and depth of articles.*

## Week #1, 3/18 and 3/20

Welcome back! This week we discuss the various ways in which we tell stories, from photographs to stand up comedy. We will also review basic elements of a story, like characters, setting and plot.

## Week #2, 3/25 and 3/27

Memoir and personal essays will be introduced through examples, discussion and writing assignments. Students will brainstorm important times in their life and what means most to them.

## Week #3, 4/15 and 4/17

Students will continue working on their memoir assignments and turn in a final draft. Review of types of figurative language and sensory details. Grammar activity as well as a creative rewrite of a story focused on creating a specific mood.

### **Week #4, 4/22 and 4/24**

Historical fiction will be introduced through examples, discussion and writing assignments. We will look at primary documents. Students will decide on a specific time period and begin writing a piece of historical fiction.

### **Week #5, 4/29 and 5/1**

Peer reviewing and editing of Historical Fiction rough draft will take place. Final Book Talk.

### **Week #6, 5/6 and 5/8**

Final draft of Historical Fiction due. Begin discussing different types of poetic form and reviewing elements of a poem. Poems will focus on nature and “things.”

### **Week #7, 5/13 and 5/15**

Continue writing poems. Students will begin brainstorming a creative representation of one of their assignments. (Eighth graders will write a “graduation” speech/reflection.)

### **Week #8, 5/20 and 5/22**

Last week of school! Sharing of creative work in class and group writing activities.