

English/Language Arts for 6th-8th

2025-2026 Session 4, Mondays/Wednesdays

Instructor: Melanie Ware

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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 Google Classroom 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, 3/23 and 3/25

Welcome back! This week we discuss the various ways in which we tell stories, from photographs to stand up comedy. 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 #2, 3/30 and 4/1

We will review basic elements of a story, like characters, setting and plot. 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.

Spring Break 4/6-4/17

Week #3, 4/20 and 4/22

Begin discussing different types of poetic form and reviewing elements of a poem. Students will continue working on their memoir assignments and turn in a final draft.

Week #4, 4/27 and 4/29

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, 5/4 and 5/6

We will learn about different forms of creative writing, like screenplays and graphic novels. Introduce their final creative projects.

Week #6, 5/11 and 5/13

Students will begin brainstorming a creative representation of one of their assignments. (Eighth graders will also start to write a “graduation” speech/reflection.) Final draft of Historical Fiction due.

Week #7, 5/18 and 5/20

Final activity with Greek and Latin Roots. Final Book Talks.

Week #8, 5/27

Last week of school! Sharing of final creative project!