

English/Language Arts for 6th-8th

2026-2027 Session 1, 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* magazines will be used (provided with online access and/or hard copies). The reading for session 1 will include expository and fiction 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. **Writing focus in Session 1 will be summary** and writing skills. **Independent work is expected** (on average, two hours per week with nightly independent reading expected).

Course Expectations:

- Grading Rubric
 - o Attendance 20%
 - Come to all classes or let me know if you know you will be absent.
 - o Participation 30%
 - Arrive on time and prepared to provide your best effort daily.
 - Contribute to a productive class environment by asking and answering questions and being respectful to others.
 - Monthly notebook checks for organization and consistent note taking.
 - o Homework 50%
 - Keep up with **independent reading** of a novel of choice (weekly check-ins).
 - Complete assignments to the best of your ability.
- **Write down assignments in planner and check Google Classroom regularly.**
 - o 9am class code: szrswp6x 11am class code: 6mmhaxka
- Materials: Three ringed binder with lined paper, four dividers, highlighter, and pencil/pen.
 - o Divider labels: Handouts, notes, free writing, and homework.

Syllabus:

*Sharing, article discussion, peer review, and collaboration will be ongoing. Mini lessons in grammar, vocabulary and spelling will be weekly. **The following syllabus is a GENERAL framework only**; class focus will adjust per students' needs, interests, and depth of articles.*

Week #1: 8/24 and 8/26

We will discuss components of ELA, such as fluency, mechanics, varied genre, etc.. There will be an informal assessment of skills, combined with "getting to know you" communication and team building activities. Elements of fiction will be introduced, such as characters, setting, and plot. Independent reading.

Week #2: 8/31 and 9/2

Focus on summary strategies, recognizing inferred and concrete details, as well as learn the difference between objective and subjective writing. Students will write an informal summary on an animated short and edit work. Independent reading and check in. Grammar lesson reviewing basics as well as word choice and strengthening/clarifying ideas.

Week #3: 9/9

Summary will be assigned for a narrative piece (from Scholastic Scope, issues provided). Students will discuss and analyze key ideas and evidence-based (cited) responses will be practiced, as well as reading-comprehension strategies such as annotating text while reading. Rough draft of summary #1 is due. Independent reading and check in.

Week #4: 9/14 and 9/16

Students will continue to develop paraphrasing and direct quotation skills. Practice editing and revising sentence structure and paragraph organization to create more diverse and clear writing. Final draft of summary #1 is due. Independent reading and check in.

Week #5: 9/21 and 9/23

Students will read a short play in class and dive deeper into practicing text evidence through the use of making inferences. We will read an expository article and discuss how it differs from narrative. Rough draft of narrative summary #2 is due. Independent reading and check in.

Week #6: 9/28 and 9/30

Grammar lesson focusing on clauses and phrases. To prepare for session 2, students will review literary elements and learn about the difference between moral and theme and how symbolism is used in storytelling by exploring a Greek myth. Final draft of summary #2 is due. Independent reading and check in.

Week #7: 10/5 and 10/7

Students will review editing skills and evaluate their writing/reading progress from the start of session. Begin preparing for session 2 by discussing and becoming familiar with a thesis. The final class of the session will culminate with Book Talk #1.