



Language Arts 8

Course Syllabus

Supervising Teacher

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Course Description:

The main goal of this course is for students to enjoy reading! Of course, it is also helpful to develop written and oral communication skills. Emphasis is placed on reading comprehension and written and spoken language.

Recommended Textbooks (it is only necessary to select one):

EMC Masterpiece Series, Literature and the Language Arts 8th Grade (SE and TE) AND EMC Write-In Reader Grade 8 (SE and TE)
PEARSON - PRENTICE HALL Literature, Penguin Edition Grade 8 (SE and TE)
MCGRAW-HILL - GLENCOE Literature: The Reader's Choice, Course 3 Grade 8 (SE and TE)

Recommended Supplemental Materials:

My Access! on-line writing program (available by subscription for grades 4-8) – recommended to be done at least once a month.

ZANER-BLOSER G.U.M. Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics F SE grade 8 I-DEA TOP PICK
ZANER-BLOSER G.U.M. Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics F TE grade 8 I-DEA TOP PICK
ZANER-BLOSER Spelling Connections SE 8
ZANER-BLOSER Spelling Connections TE 8

Novel Reading:

In addition to what you do in your English textbook each day, it is recommended that you are reading many

novels on your own time—*not* as part of the regular English hour/day requirement.

Many novels may be acquired through the I-DEA Catalog (with, in some cases, an extremely helpful supplemental teacher's guide), from a public library, or may be purchased. There are also many websites that can assist you in your understanding of what you are reading.

Portfolio Suggested Inclusions:

1. Vocabulary Log: This is the best way to cover **Standard One, Reading Process**. As you read, you could jot down words that you don't know, and look them up later as part of your class work.

2. Reading Log and Journal: This is a great way to reflect on your learning, and it is a great way to cover **Standard Two, Comprehension and Interpretation**. In the log, you could make a chart with columns for title, date, pages read, etc., and in your **journal** you could write about what you think about the reading so far, letter to a character, a summarization, what you would do if you were in that situation, a different ending, dialog with the author and/or character, etc. This reading log/journal may be as simple as a spiral notebook, divided into five columns per page, with headings for title, date, pages read, hourly commitment, and the largest space for journaling.

3. My Access!: This is available for all grades 4-8 students by subscription only. It is *suggested* that all English 8 students complete one school-assigned My Access! prompt each month, and include the final essay in hard copy in your portfolio. These essays, when included in your portfolio, can cover Standard 3 (Writing Process), Standard 4 (Writing Application), and Standard 5 (Writing Components)—a separate, completed essay could be used in the portfolio for each standard.

Class Requirements:

- *Students will work one hour a day / subject.*
- *Standards-based Portfolio*

I-DEA Student Honor Code:

With any form of valid proof of dishonesty with regard to student work or testing, the instructor may elect from a range of actions. Academic dishonesty could lead to a zero grade for the assignment or even failure for the entire course following consultation between the instructor, Secondary Supervisor, and Director.

All students must adhere to the **Honor Code:**

“On my honor, I will maintain the highest possible standards of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. This means that I will do my own work; I will not lie, cheat, steal, or claim another’s work as my own, including plagiarizing; and as a member of this academic community, I am committed to maintaining an environment of respect and mutual trust.”

Idaho State Contact Standards – 7th Grade Language Arts

http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/content_standards/language_standards.htm