

8th Grade Language Arts

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<http://blogs.4j.lane.edu/maahs/>

Language Arts: In language arts the focus is on the four main aspects of communication: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This class will be exploring each area with a theme of "acceptance" throughout the year, while preparing to meet or exceed the 8th grade Common Core Standards. In addition, we will be including a research component, which involves on-going mini-research lessons culminating in a final Career Research Project during the months of February-March.

Agenda Planners: Students will record all assignments in their Agenda Planners. Those who are absent should check my website. <http://blogs.4j.lane.edu/maahs/>

Homework: All class work not finished during class time becomes homework. Students are expected to finish all work by the due date given. Students may check out class literature books from me, so they have the resources to finish the work at home. In addition, all students have on-going reading homework during the first term, which will include SSR worksheets where they will choose responses as they read. After the first 6 weeks of writing summaries using complete sentences and correct vocabulary, then a student may be switched to a "Reading Card". Students should expect to have reading homework almost every night of the school week and have a book for SSR on Wednesdays.

Late work: Work turned in after the due date will have a 10% reduction of the score, and an additional 10% reduction for each additional week it is late. Late work will only be accepted up to three weeks after the assignment is due; up to 30% off. Students with an excused absence will be given an additional week to make up work missed without penalty.

Participation: This is essential to the learning process in a language art's classroom. Students are encouraged to share their knowledge and opinions with their peers during discussion.

Time and Preparation: Students are expected to come to class on time and be prepared. Materials needed are as follows: binder, notebook paper, **spiral**, pencil, highlighters, agenda, iPad, and reading material.

Written Work: Unless otherwise specified, most work will be handwritten, but with the iPad technology available to us, some assignments will be word-processed and turned in electronically. *If you are on an IEP/504 and need documents sent to you for word-processing, please let me know.

Tests: Students will learn new spelling/vocabulary words throughout the year. They are expected to take notes or flash cards on these words and study, as they will have spelling/vocabulary tests. Students will also be studying grammar and should expect to have

regular grammar quizzes over recently learned material. We will also be doing Smarter Balance (1) and LPA (2) testing schoolwide to assess areas of proficiency.

Extra Credit: Extra credit is earned by entering school contests such as the Poetry Contest or a Library Contest. It can also be earned by submitting work to the C.Y. Echo. Please check the "Extra Credit" page on my blog for new contests.

Portfolios: Students are expected to save all graded work in a personal file folder located in their table group tub in the cupboard.

Rules: Students are expected to behave in ways that support their ability to learn, the ability of others to learn, and my ability to teach. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. If a student is caught cheating or plagiarizing he/she will receive a zero on that assignment and will not be able to make-up those points.

Parents/Guardians: I encourage you to check my website for the answers to your questions. Contact me via email at any time, and I will get back to you as quickly as possible; contact by phone is less efficient. Now that your student is an eighth-grader, he/she will have more responsibility to advocate for him/herself as an adult. Their eighth grade year is their last preparation year before high school, so I expect you and your student to communicate about his/her progress in this class.

Books: We will be reading three books as a class this year: *The Outsiders*, *Soldier's Heart* and excerpts from *Freedom Writers*. Students are responsible for reading on their own and bring a book on Wednesday for SSR.

Movies: Here is a list of possible movies that we may be watching this year (this list is subject to change): *The Secret*, *The Outsiders*, *Freedom Writers*, *The Help*, *The Blindside*, *One Survivor Remembers*, *Hidden Figures*, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, and *The Book Thief*.