

DOBBS FERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL
Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522

COURSE OUTLINE

SUBJECT: Language and Literature
Offered: Full Year
Type of Course: Required

GRADE: 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Eighth grade Language and Literature incorporates a variety of authors and genres from contemporary literature, dramatic classics, essays, poems, and short stories. Our focus this year is to develop the ability to look at a text critically, to be able to analyze a text in discussions and literary responses, and to better support our ideas with facts and supporting details from the texts.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES:

By June of this year, students will be able to:

- Write for a variety of purposes, including an informational essay, a persuasive essay, TEXAS paragraphs, RAPPS paragraphs, and narrative writing (original short story)
- Demonstrate ability to use the writing process and understand the process
- Achieve fluidity and coherence in writing through organization and sentence construction
- Recognize and be able to write paragraphs using sequencing, cause/effect, comparison, and conflict
- Better understand the grammatical structure of the language
- Analyze content on the literal, interpretive, and applied levels
- Become better critical editors, readers, and writers
- Understand and gain insight into drama
- Perform a segment of a play and participate in readers' theatre
- Analyze the characteristics of a short story (theme, characterization, conflict, plot development, point of view, and author's purpose)
- Analyze the characteristics of non-fiction
- Utilize note-taking skills to reinforce listening and increase reading comprehension
- Learn 100+ new words through vocabulary units and to incorporate them into writing and speaking

MATERIALS:

One folder: Students will keep process writing pieces and graded work in one folder and any work for research in the other folder.

Two Marble notebooks: This is our Reading and Writing Response Notebook for collecting ideas for writing, literary responses, quick writes, and other writing tasks.

Three-ring binder: This is for holding notes and handouts that are used for reference and instruction. This can be shared with another core class.

Post-it Notes: As students read, they will be annotating the text for a variety of purposes (theme, symbolism, characterization, etc.)

Classroom texts:

Short Stories may include, but are not limited to

- “The Lie” by Kurt Vonnegut
- “What’s the Worst That Could Happen?” by Bruce Coville
- “American History” by Judith Ortiz-Cofer
- “Jeremy Goldblatt Is So Not Moses” by James Howe
- “Marigolds” by Eugenia W. Colier

Novels may include, but are not limited to

- The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, John Boyn (fiction)
- The Cage, Ruth Minsky Sender (non-fiction)
- Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck
- The Pearl, John Steinbeck
- Unbroken, Laura Hillenbrand
- The Boy Who Dared, by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
- Between Shades of Gray, by Ruta Sepetys
- A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, by Betty Smith
- Lord of The Flies, by William Golding
- Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Plays may include, but are not limited to

- Romeo and Juliet, William Shakespeare
- A Raisin In The Sun, Lorraine Hansberry

Poems may include, but are not limited to

- “Nothing Gold Can Stay,” by Robert Frost
- “Harlem,” by Langston Hughes
- Various sonnets by William Shakespeare

Comment [JR1]: We should delete. We only ask for one folder,

Comment [JR2]: Do you use two? I only use one.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT:

40% Writing: quarterly writing which may include an informational essay, a persuasive essay, narrative writing (an original short story), responses to literature in the form of extended responses, journal entries, and quick writes.

35% Tests and Quizzes: Unit Tests, Cumulative Vocabulary Quizzes, Skill based tests/quizzes

15% Homework

10% Class Participation

PARENT/STUDENT RESOURCES:

Extra help is available during t-periods and upon the student's request. Ms. Gretczko's T-periods are held on Mondays from 7:40-8:00 AM. Mrs. Rosenblum's T-periods are held Tuesdays from 3:25-3:55. The best way to keep track of student progress is by using the Parent Portal. In order to check in with your child and oversee what work is due, please see the 8th grade echalk HW page that can be accessed from the DFMS homepage. Please know that some units are differentiated by texts, so students can choose texts that challenge them best or read two texts that are embedded in the same theme or by the same author.

Outline developed by: LL Department

Date: Spring 2016