

DOBBS FERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL
Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522

COURSE OUTLINE

SUBJECT: Language and Literature

GRADE: 6

Course description:

The Language and Literature program is designed to instill in students an appreciation necessary to be thoughtful critical thinkers and reflective learners.

Within this program, students will be exposed to a variety of **literature** which will allow students to explore different genres.

- The use of *Reading Response Journals* will allow students to reinforce reading comprehension skills, expand appreciation of the elements of literature and fine writing, explore the relationship between literature and other subjects, learn new vocabulary, and analyze the choices made by themselves and literary characters.
- *Independent Reading Projects/Book Partnerships/Clubs* will allow students to pursue their own interests and journey into a variety of roles as critical readers, thinkers and writers.

Students are instructed in various kinds of **writing**.

- In-class timed on-demand pieces and process writing through use of the *Writer's Notebook* will be the focus of students' interests and reading experiences. While the emphasis is on structured assignments, students will also have opportunities for individual creativity. Through whole-class and small-group instruction, students will be taught to draft, revise, rewrite, edit, and publish their work, while recognizing their audience.

Communication (mechanics) is an important component of our program.

- Students will examine word usage, including recognition of parts of speech, through *vocabulary activities*. Sentence structure will be reviewed, but students will be expected to be able to construct *detailed paragraphs leading to the formation of organized essays*. Emphasis is placed on the transfer of knowledge of skills to practice.

Listening and speaking skills are also integrated into the program.

- Students will be taught to listen effectively during a variety of presentations and to carefully follow oral directions. They will also be expected to speak articulately through a variety of personal interactions, offer thoughtful opinions and judgments, and demonstrate individuality.

Anticipated student outcomes: By June of this year, students in this class should be able to:

1. Self-select a "just right" book for themselves in a variety of genres.
2. Plan, construct, revise, and edit a five paragraph essay.
3. Comprehend and analyze non-fiction writing pieces within their reading level.
4. Recognize and respond in writing to specific elements of story such as *plot, flashback, symbolism, and irony*.
5. Determine the author's purpose as both a reader and a writer, while recognizing the importance of the audience.

Materials required or used:

Independent Reading Book, composition notebook, spiral notebook w/ dividers, class novel

Criteria for grading:

Tests/Quizzes/Writing Pieces/Projects/Class Participation: 85% of total grade

Homework: 15% of total grade

Opportunities for Enrichment:

readkiddoread.com

writingfix.com

scholastic.com

Outline developed by: Grade Six English/Language Arts

Date: Spring 2016