

DOBBS FERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL
Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522

COURSE OUTLINE

SUBJECT: Language and Literature

GRADE: 8

Offered: Full Year

Type of Course: Required

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Some of the Statements of Inquiry to be studied are:

1. Change occurs when inequality exists within the social and economic contexts of society so that all individuals can advance and grow.
2. One's cultural identity impacts personal experiences during war, and personal and cultural beliefs impact one's actions during wartime.

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 key and global concepts through these texts, critically analyze 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 informational, persuasive, literary and narrative pieces using a variety of formats
- 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 different text structures
- 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 a variety of literary elements in short stories, dramas and novels
- Analyze the characteristics of non-fiction
- Annotate literature while reading to increase comprehension and analytical skills
- 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

Section in a Three-ring binder: This is for holding notes and handouts that are used for reference and instruction. **This can be shared with other core classes, with a divider for Lang. and Lit.**

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. Collier

Novels may include, but are not limited to

- Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck
- Unbroken, Laura Hillenbrand
- The Outsiders, by S.E. Hinton
- Holocaust literature
- Accompanying works and supplemental texts where appropriate

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
- “Dreams Deferred,” by Langston Hughes
- Various sonnets by William Shakespeare

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 Tests, 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. The best way to keep track of student progress is:

1. T-periods
2. Parent Portal
3. Google Classroom

Outline developed by: LL Department

Date: Spring 2023