**8th Grade English Language Arts**

**HONORS**

***Course Summary ~ School Supplies ~ Grading Policy ~ Classroom Expectations***

**Ms. Viola & Mrs. Sora**

**Course Summary**

This 8th Grade Honors English Language Arts class is literature and writing based. Some of the famous literary authors we will read include Thanhha Lai, Harper Lee, Langston Hughes, Michael Pollan, Walter Dean Myers, and William Shakespeare. We will read, analyze and discuss great works of literature such as poetry, informational text, personal memoir, novels, and plays. Students will respond to our reading through conversation, writing (short and extended responses), projects, oral presentations, and exams. Students will also be expected to read independently for homework assignments and book projects.

**School Supplies:**

* 3 ring binder (one section in main binder)
* Lined (loose-leaf) paper
* 2- pens
* 2- pencils
* 1- Composition notebook
* Independent reading book (see our class library, school library or public library
* 1- Two-pocket folder used only for ELA (optional)

**Grading Policy:**

* **10 % Homework** 
  + *Homework is generally assigned once weekly and is typically due on Wednesdays. Students are expected to complete all homework assignments and follow all guidelines. Homework assignments are posted on Google Classroom. Paper copies are also provided.*
* **20 % Classwork**
  + *Classwork grades are given based on completed work and participation.*
* **35% Projects / Benchmark Essays**
  + *Projects are assigned based on Independent reading books. Additional projects may be assigned in the honors course based on class texts. Benchmark Essays are essays that are completed by all 8th grade students.*
* **30% Tests** 
  + *Tests in ELA 8 Honors can be announced or unannounced. Tests can be based on course content or binder/ notebook organization.*
* **5% Citizenship**
  + *ELA 8 Honors students receive their citizenship score based on PBIS. Students are expected to be respectful (of our classroom, the teacher, their peers, and our supplies), responsible (for their supplies, their work, and behavior), and safe.*

**Classroom Expectations and Rules**

***Summer Reading Projects***

All **summer reading assignments** are due September 18, 2020. No late projects will be accepted.

***Book Projects***

Book Projects are due on the assigned day. Students should use their independent reading books for their Book Projects. Students should have their reading books in class for indoor supervisory time and every Friday (Reading Workshop Day). You will lose ten points per day if your project is late.

***Electronics / Cell phones***

All electronics must be kept in your locker throughout the day. If brought to class, students will be expected to put phones or other electronics in their locker.

***The beginning of class***

When class time begins, you should already be…

* Seated at your desk
* Copying your homework into your planner
* Beginning the Do Now activity ~ *Content Objectives must be written in daily notes.*

***Absences***

If you miss a day of school, it is **your responsibility** to make up any work from that day. You may see me before the school day (homebase), during your supervisory / lunch period, or at the end of the day to get the ELA work that you missed.

***Hats/Jackets/Food/Drinks***—No hats or outerwear are to be worn in the classroom. No food or drinks in the classroom. Let’s keep our work space clean.

***Bathroom procedures***—There are no bathroom passes allowed during the **first or last ten minutes** of class. Please **take a pass and sign out** when you leave the classroom.

**Always ask questions and come for extra help!**

**8th Grade Honors ELA**

**Curriculum Outline**

**Unit I:**

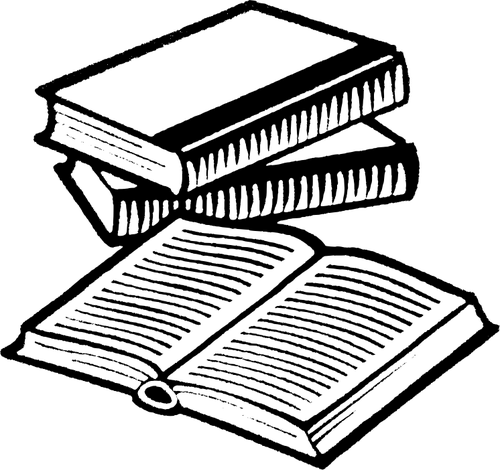
“Finding Home”

* *Inside Out and Back Again,* by Thanhha Lai (novel written in verse)
* Poetry Writing
* Author Study of Thanhha Lai
* *Butterfly Yellow* by Thanhha Lai

**Unit II:**

“Personal Narrative/ Memoir”

* Excerpts from *Bad Boy* by Walter Dean Myers
* Excerpts from *Marshfield Dreams* by Ralph Fletcher
* Memoir/Personal Narrative
* Written Assignment: Personal Narrative (Essay)



**Unit III:**

“Taking a Stand”

* *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee
* Excerpts from I Am Malala by Malala Yousefzai
* Written Assignment: Argumentative Essay

**Unit III:**

“Research- Understanding Perspectives”

* Peekskill Research Project
* *Little Rock Girl: 1957,* by Shelley Tougas
* Written Assignment: Research Paper

**Unit IV:**

“Decision Making and Forming Positions”

* *The Omnivore’s Dilemma,* by Michael Pollan
* Written Assignment: Position Paper

**End of Year Mini-Unit:**

* Introduction to William Shakespeare / Preparing for High School
* *No Fear Shakespeare: A Midsummers Night Dream*
* *No Fear Shakespeare: Sonnets*