Language Arts

2016-2017 Course Syllabus

Ms. Elise Landau 7th/8th grade English Rocky Mountain Academy of Evergreen

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**Course Text:**

Realms of Gold

Supplementary Sources including novels, audio recordings, movie clips, Internet articles, etc.

Office Hours:

Thursday 3:25-3:45 drop in or by appointment

**Supplies:**

Students should bring their language arts binder, a writing utensil, highlighters, paper, and the appropriate reading material to *every class*.

**Technology:**

Technology has the power to enhance the teaching and learning process, to communicate more effectively, to allow for creativity, to work more efficiently, to solve problems, and to access and analyze situations. Students should be able to access and be confortable with technology used in the classroom. If a student needs help with any technology (email, PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, Prezi, Smart Board, etc.) he/ she is encouraged to ask any middle school teacher.

Students will have access to school computers for typed assignments and to be used for in-class workdays and study halls. If student does not have access to a printer when a typed assignment is due, student should email the teacher the document 24 hours before the assignment is due to ask to print (this will be reviewed in class).

***Classroom Rules:***

1. *Students arrive on time and prepared for class, including all class materials and HOMEWORK.*
2. *Students are respectful and courteous to classmates and teachers. Students respect one another when communicating in class and students behave in an adult-like manner.*
3. *Follow school policy as detailed in the RMAE handbook including dress code at ALL TIMES!*
4. *Understand and follow school three step behavioral policy.*
5. *Participate and stay on-task until class is dismissed.*
6. ***All cell phones are to be turned OFF from 7:45-3:15!*** *If a cell phone is present in the classroom, I will confiscate the cell phone until a parent or guardian picks it up from the front office.*

**Assessment:**

Research shows that in every classroom there are a wide variety of talents and intelligences. This can prove challenging while trying to assess the development of reading, listening, speaking, grammar, and writing skills (as defined by Colorado JeffCo standards). Therefore, this course implements a variety of assessment tools including (but not limited to): formal tests, quizzes, essays, timed in-class writing assignments, artistic responses, projects, oral presentation, and in class discussions.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is using another’s work without giving them credit. ***For example: Copying another student’s worksheet or homework assignment***. Strategies for avoiding plagiarism will be reviewed in class. Any student caught plagiarizing in any way will receive a zero credit for the assignment and be subject to administrative disciplinary action. Plagiarism will **NOT** be tolerated.

**Campus Gradebook:**

Grades and scores will be updated weekly in Infinite Campus. Projects and large papers may require additional time for in-depth grading. Check frequently using the parent portal to help your student stay on top of all assigned work. Please do not contact the instructor about individual grades unless there is a specific problem i.e. the student feels the grade was incorrectly entered.

**Web Page:**

<http://elandaurmae.weebly.com>

Please refer to my webpage throughout the school year for additional notes, assignments, calendars, additional study materials, etc. *Parents are strongly encouraged to check my website calendar regularly as well to help their students to stay on top of his/ her assignment or if they would just like to know what is being taught in Language Arts that week.* Announcements and reminders are also posted on this webpage.

**Timeliness and Participation:**

Students will earn a participation grade each week (5 points). Appropriate behavior in class, active volunteering, participating in class discussions, prompt attendance, preparation and timeliness will be monitored on a weekly basis. Handing in homework in a timely manner is also reflected by this grade. One late homework assignment results in minus one point for the week grade. Therefore, consistently turning in ***late assignments will result in a lower class participation score for that quarter.***

**Late Work:**

It is the *student’s* responsibility to obtain notes and missed assignments. Missed tests, quizzes, presentations, or timed in-class writing assignments may be made up by appointment during office hours. Credit will only be given until the end of that week. We offer a homework club each week to allow students to make up missed work and hand in before the week is up. Of course, there are certain circumstances that may not pertain to this policy (long family trip, long period of illness, etc.) It is your responsibility to find out what you missed for the week.

**Absences:**

It is the students’ responsibility to ask for missing work, or find what was covered in class on my website and calendar. Keep in mind that no alternative educational opportunity can replace in-class instructional time. **Please make sure your student(s) are in class every day that they are healthy.**

I have read and agree with the Language Arts and RMAE classroom policies:

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Student signature date

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Parent/ guardian signature date

**Tentative Curriculum Map:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aug/Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | April | May |
| Short Stories of Suspense and Surprise | Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde | Trek Across Europe | Trek Across Europe | Latin Roots and Phrases,  Personal Narrative | Call of the Wild | Poetry and Latin Phrases  Cyrano de Bergerac | Anne Frank, Holocaust Readings | Selected Holocaust Readings, The Flower Man |
| Descriptive Word Choice & Grammar Review, Short Answer Responses. | Close Note Annotation, In- Class Timed Writing, Grammar Intensive | Formatted Writing; Research Strategies | Business letters; Worked Cited, Articles, etc. | Vocabulary Intensive, Root Word and Origin,  Narrative Writing | Expository Writing, | CSAP Review; Poetry  Persuasive Writing | Expository Writing | Descriptive Writing, Creative Writing |

The schedule is subject to change and does not include all components such as spelling, grammar, and vocabulary. It is a rough overview, Your student is responsible for any changes or announcements in class whether or not they are physically present on the day of the announcement change.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aug/Sep. | Oct | Nov | Dec. | Jan | Feb. | Mar. | April | May |
| Classic Short Stories- Meaning of Life | The Outsiders & The Good Earth | Animal Farm | I Know Why the Cage Bird Sings | Greek/ Latin Roots & Of Mice and Men | To Kill a Mockingbird | To Kill A Mockingbird cont. | Intro. To Shakespeare | Shakespeare & 12th Night |
| Descriptive Word Choice, Sensory Details, In Class Timed Writing | Grammar Review, Close Note Annotation Review; Thesis Statement | Expository vs. Persuasive Writing, | Biographical and Autobiographical Writing | Essay Organization, Vocabulary Intensive | Persuasive Essays, Poetry | Sayings and Phrases; Screen Play Writing, Poetry | Research Project; Work Cited | Research Strategies & Research Writing |

**7th Grade:**

**8th Grade:**