

8th Grade Language Arts Syllabus

Menomonie Middle School

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Underscore between first and last name

Five Learning Standards

- I can read, interpret, and analyze fiction.
- I can read, interpret, and analyze nonfiction.
- I can write narrative, informative, and persuasive texts to convey ideas and information clearly.
- I can demonstrate proper use of English conventions (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar).
- I can orally communicate information, opinions, and ideas effectively to different audiences for a variety of purposes.

Term by Term

Each term students will read a variety of genres in fiction and nonfiction using the five reading strategies to demonstrate understanding: connect, question, infer, synthesize, and visualize. Students will also present their creative, persuasive, and informative ideas in written and verbal formats. Each term students will also study vocabulary and grammar inside the content being studied and written.

The eighth grade year will focus on the themes of justice and freedom. The large questions asked are what does it mean to be an outsider? And would you rather be free in an unsafe place or safe in an unfree place? Students will read and annotate poetry Monday through Thursday and read and annotate a nonfiction article on Friday. Tuesdays will be devoted to sustained reading and Fridays will be devoted to sustained writing.

Term 1

- Creative Story
- Memoir
- The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
- "I believe" speech
- Realistic Fiction Literature Circles

Term 2

- Hamilton by Lin Manuel Miranda
- Hamilton research and presentation
- Persuasive Writing - social justice
- Immigration study and writing

Term 3

- I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
- Investigative Writing
- Civil Rights study
- Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes

Term 4

- Science Fiction Creative story
- Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
- Science Fiction Literature Circles
- Research in science and technology

Assessment

Students will be assessed according to the middle school writing, speaking, and reading rubrics. The language arts department follows the school's expectations of what a 4, 3.5, 3, 2.5, 2, 1.5, 1 and 0.5 mean. The same five learning standards are scored all four terms.

Teachers expect all students to be meeting the standard (score of 3) by the end of the school year. For students to earn a 4 it is expected that students are demonstrating inferences and applications in their writing and reading that crosses curriculum and real life experiences, expands the ideas and thoughts expressed in class and demonstrates the ability to manage upper level reading material.

Expectations/Homework

Students will read at least 250 pages a month. The reading is student choice: fiction, nonfiction, magazines, etc. Students will complete a reading log for each month to document all their reading. One reading per semester will need to be from the "Other/Outsider" reading list found on the website.

Language Arts Web Site

All class work completed and talked about in class is available on our 8th grade language arts web site: <https://sites.google.com/msd.k12.wi.us/mms8la/home>

Follow us on twitter - @JasonCollins8LA, @mrdolansclass