

SCHOOL: Sterling Middle School
ADDRESS: 444 Granite St
PHONE #: 617-984-8729

SYLLABUS

TEACHER Mrs. Rand

COURSE/GRADE LEVEL: Grade 8 Reading/Language Arts

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

Fiction and non-fiction novels, short stories, magazines, videos, open response materials

MAJOR TOPICS

Grade 8

I. Exploring and Comparing Various Genres

- a. Fiction
- b. Nonfiction
- c. Poetry
- d. Drama

II. Reading Comprehension and Reading Strategies through Various Works of Literature

- a. Predicting
- b. Questioning
- c. Summarizing
- d. Reflecting
- e. Analyzing
- f. Making connections

III. Elements of Fiction

- a. Setting
- b. Character
- c. Conflict
- d. Plot
- e. Theme
- f. Mood
- g. Tone

IV. Elements of Poetry

- a. Sound Devices (e.g. onomatopoeia and alliteration)
- b. Figures of Speech (e.g. metaphor and simile)

V. Elements of Nonfiction

- a. Main Idea
- b. Supporting Details
- c. point of View
- d. Author's Purpose
- e. Sequence

- i. Chronological Order
 - ii. Logical Order
- VI. Vocabulary Development
 - a. History of Words
 - b. Structure of Words
 - c. Context Clues
 - d. Synonyms and Antonyms
 - e. Use of Dictionary and Thesaurus
- VII. Imagery
 - a. Flashback
 - b. Foreshadowing
- VIII. Conventions and Structures of English Language
 - a. Parts of Speech
 - b. Grammar
 - c. Usage
 - d. Sentence Structure
 - e. Mechanics

***ASSESSMENT TOOLS**

Portfolios
Rubrics
Peer-grading
Teacher observations
MCAS Testing
Oral presentation Rubrics
Self-grading and evaluations
Projects
Notebooks
Diagnostic testing
Interdisciplinary activities
Role playing
Open ended questions
Co-operative learning projects
Multimedia presentations
Journal/Diaries
Objective Tests/Quizzes
Exams
Essays
Research papers
Presentations
FCA'S for long essays
Attendance
Class Participation
Homework

***See Individual Student Education Plans or 504 Plans for modification where applicable.**

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Each student will be expected to complete all homework assignments by the next time the class meets.

They should spend 20 to 30 minutes every other night on their homework.

GRADING POLICY

Grades will be based on your performance on a number of criteria. These will include:

Homework: 15%

Quizzes: 20%

Classes work: 15%

Participation and cooperation: 5%

Test/Projects: 40%

High Five: 5%

MAKEUP PROCEDURE

Absent students have an extra day to make up any homework they missed. Test or quizzes will be made up on the day they return to class. Call the office and arrange to have homework picked up for extended absences.

GENERAL INFORMATION

All students will be expected to bring a writing utensil, assigned reading book, (if book is lost the student is responsible to replace or pay for a new book), folder for work to be kept in, notebook to write in, and agenda book to write assignments in to class. Also, I am available for student's questions or help before school. Students can also take advantage of before or after school homework club.

***Adjustments may be made in this syllabus to meet student needs.**