

**School:** BMMS  
**Address:** 50 Calvin Road  
**Phone#:** 617 984-8723

## **SYLLABUS**

**TEACHER:** Johna Dowdall

**COURSE/GRADE LEVEL:** Eighth Grade Reading

**INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:** Read for Real. Zaner-Bloser, Inc. 2005  
Assorted novels (*Baseball in April, Witness*), short stories, newspapers, picture books, essays, memoirs, etc.

**MAJOR TOPICS:** Students will read in a variety of genres including myths, fables, folk and fairy tales, novels, short stories, non-fiction, drama, and poetry. They will explore the elements of each type of writing and read for enjoyment and to promote higher level thinking and increased vocabulary. Students will read the stories of specific American authors (Poe, O'Henry, Twain, Irving) and compare their writing to the work of British authors of the same period.  
A writing journal will be kept for the purpose of recording analytical thoughts, connections, questions, and comments pertaining to the reading assignments.  
Students will receive vocabulary lessons along with comprehension lessons in addition to the reading assignments.

**ASSESSMENT TOOLS\*** (The following tools may be used for assessment):

Writing assignments	Teacher Observation
Journals	Projects
Tests/Quizzes	Interdisciplinary Activities
Oral Presentation	Class Participation

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

**HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS:** Students will have reading, writing, or research assignments. Assignments will be due the next day unless otherwise noted.

**GRADING POLICY:** Grades are based on assessments and individual effort. The Writing Journal will contribute 30% of the final grade; the other 70% will be made up from quizzes, tests, projects, homework, and classwork.

**MAKEUP PROCEDURE:** Students are responsible for missed assignments and may pass them in until two days before marks close. Assignment scores will depreciate with lateness unless there is an outstanding reason for said lateness.

**GENERAL INFORMATION/MATERIALS:** Required materials: spiral notebook; pen, pencil; students will be required to provide their own reading material at certain times during the year.

Adjustments may be made to this syllabus to meet students\* needs. If adjustments are made to this syllabus during the school year, parents/guardians will be notified and a new syllabus will be distributed.