

Central Middle School
1012 Hancock Street
Quincy, MA 02169

SYLLABUS

Teacher: Anne M. McGuiggan

Course/Grade Level: Eighth Grade Language Arts

Instructional Materials

Text: *Warriner's Grammar and Composition*, *Heath Grammar and Composition*, and *Write Source 2000*.

Novels: *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor, *The Contender* by Robert Lipsyte, *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*, and *Tangerine* by Edward Bloom (novels are subject to change).

A collection of poems and short stories as well as a variety of non-fiction works will be incorporated into the curriculum.

Major Topics

Composition

The John Collins Writing Program: Previewing, Drafting, Revising, Editing and Publication

Formal and Informal Language

Creative Writing

Expository Writing

Narrative Writing

Comparison/Contrasting

Persuasive Writing

Letter Writing

Persuasive Writing

Composition/Literature

Students will analyze and/or apply the following literary elements to their writing:

Elements of fiction including; setting, character, narration, mood, symbolism, theme, plot, conflict and tone.

Elements of Non-Fiction including; autobiography, biography, essays, newspapers and speeches

Elements of Poetry: figurative language, form, and sound devices

Literary Devices: flashback, foreshadowing, point of view
Literature: vocabulary, genres, novels, short stories and poetry

Assessment Tools

Portfolios	Homework	Focus Correction Areas
Rubrics	Research Papers	Group Presentations
Peer-grading	Exams	Essays
Teacher Observations	Class Participation	Test and quizzes
Oral Presentations	Open-ended questions	Cooperative projects
Self-grading	Interdisciplinary activities	Journals

***See Individual Student Education Plans or 504 Plans for modifications.**

Homework

Homework will be assigned on a daily basis. Assignments will vary depending on the material that is being covered.

Grading Policy

Homework (25%)
Quizzes and projects (25%)
Tests and major writing assignments (40%)
Class participation (10%)

Make-up Procedure

If a student is absent, he or she will have one week to make-up missing assignments.

General Information

Students will come prepared for class (writing utensil, notebook, text, homework).

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