

Durand Junior High School
2011-2012
Seventh Grade Language Arts Syllabus
Mrs. Bland (Miss Holmes)

Course: Language Arts

Length of Course: One Year

Course Requirements:

- ✓ **Text Book Reading** – We will be using the Glencoe, Literature: The Reader’s Choice Course 2 text book. This is the large red text book that will be handed out on the first day of class. This book consists of a variety of short stories, plays, poetry, activities and exercises designed to help increase your reading fluency and comprehension skills, as well as expose you to numerous literary treasures for different places and times. A few of the selections we will be exploring are:
 - The Self Discovery Unit
 - Autobiography Discovery
 - Legends, Myths, and Folklore
 - Short Stories – Fiction, Non-fiction
 - Poetry
- ✓ **Novel Reading** – Not only will we be reading from text books, but we will also be reading and completing assignments based on different novels. You may be reading one or all of the following:
 - The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi
 - The Face on the Milk Carton by Caroline B. Cooney
 - The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
- ✓ **Vocabulary** – We will be discovering plenty of words that you didn’t even know existed in exploring texts from a plethora of authors, so be prepared to read, learn, and use these new words in your everyday vocabulary.
- ✓ **Projects** – There are a few projects that accompany this course, some are individual and others are group oriented. More projects may be added, depending on course time.
 - **Book Reports** – This is an individual project and you will do one each quarter. You will receive a rubric to show you exactly what to do to get an A+! Think of it as a roadmap to success.
 - **Multimedia Self Portrait** – This is an individual project where you will create a self portrait using a variety of multimedia materials from photographs, drawings, magazine clippings, pictures from the Internet...
 - **The Face on the Milk Carton Play**– This is a group project. Your group will be creating a script based on the story line of this particular novel. How would you feel if you were a teenager meeting your real family for the first time? With this project, you will be doing just that!
- ✓ **Participation** – You are expected to participate in classroom exercises and activities, volunteer for reading, and be prepared to answer questions when called upon. **You will be given a participation grade** (see bottom).
- ✓ **Junior Bulldog Bucks** – Junior Bulldog Bucks are given as a reward for a variety of positive acts. If you are “caught” doing good things, you may be rewarded with a JBB. If you receive an “A” on a test you may receive a JBB...in my class an A on a test gets you three JBB’s, an A+ gets you five, a grade above an A+ gets you ten Junior Bulldog Bucks! JBB’s cannot be turned in for money like the High School Bulldog Bucks, but they can be turned in for ticket entries to get great prizes!

Course Grading: Point System – Your points are recorded throughout the grading period. At the end of the period, the points that you earned are divided by the total number of the points available to decide your grade.

Supplies: You are expected to bring the following supplies to class every day, failure to do so will result in loss of participation points: **Writing Materials** (pen, pencil, etc), **Text Book** (either your text book or our current novel), **Assignment Notebook, Paper, Silent Reading Material** (novels, newspaper, etc), your **Homework Assignment** (due at the beginning of the hour), and anything else that you were told to bring on a given day.

(Each day you must earn points for participating. Following rules, answering questions, volunteering, and just doing what you are supposed to, are a few ways to earn your points. Not listening, not following the rules, and not doing what you are supposed to are few ways to not earn your points. **Participation will equal approximately 10% of you overall grade**, so lets say...1pt per class x 5 classes per week = 5pts x 9 weeks = 45 points per quarter-this is just a figure).

Classroom Rules Expectations

Respect: This is really more of a classroom motto than it is a rule. You will find that almost all of the other rules are a “branch” of this one.

Respect Others: Respecting others consists of, but is not limited to, raising your hand to speak in class (this way you are not interrupting others), keeping your hands to yourself (you don’t like it if people mess with you or your stuff), listening politely to your classmates and teachers (even if your opinion differs from theirs), and coming to class prepared (you waste *our* – mine, yours, theirs- time by going to get things you should have brought with you or running to the bathroom/getting drinks during class instead of between the bells). Also, do not abuse your classmates either physically (hitting, slapping, poking, etc..) or verbally (GOSSIP, calling someone names, GOSSIP, telling someone to shut-up, making fun of someone, making noises when they talk, and... GOSSIP!). There is a difference between joking with a class mate in a playful manner (at this point they are still smiling and firing something right back at you) and hurting someone with your poor choice of words.

No Profanity: Use of profane or abusive language (including slang terms or racial slurs) verbally, in writing, or by a gesture will not be tolerated. This includes the use of derogatory or *disrespectful* words towards or about classmates, teachers, or an assignment. Just so you know, there are some words that are just as bad to me as the more “well known” swear words. To clear up any possible confusion, the following words are not allowed in my classroom (when used inappropriately) and use of them could result in punishment: “crap” – a baby form of a different swear word, still not appropriate, “retard” – if misused, this is quite damaging and disrespectful, “shut-up” – a rude way to ask someone to please stop talking, and “fat” – unless referring to a cat or spelled with a “ph”, it’s just rude, and will not be used in describing a person.

Be Responsible: Show *respect* to yourself by turning your homework in on time and having all of our supplies with you every day. Homework is due at the beginning of class. Observe school-wide rules regarding dress code, food, and any others listed in your handbooks. Do your own work, **DON’T PLAGERISE!**

Possible Repercussions of Disregarding the Rules: You do something wrong, you get punished – that’s how it goes... Following are possible punishments for breaking the rules *in my classroom*:

- ✓ Loss of participation points or ability to participate in a fun activity.
- ✓ Academic Detention – This is a rule not only in my class but in the school. AD’s are given for not finishing homework, not turning it in on time, or not turning it in at all. Academic detentions are served Monday through Thursday from 3:30-4:00pm.
- ✓ Regular Detention – This is given depending on the severity of your “crime” at Principal Pinker’s discretion. A detention is served afterschool, from 3:30-4:00pm Monday through Thursday.
- ✓ Anything else may be handled by the principal or other administration as per the Student Handbook.

Put Forth Your Best Effort! Show your parents, teachers, friends, and family just how great you are!

Durand Junior High School
2011-2012
Eighth Grade Language Arts Syllabus
Mrs. Bland (Miss Holmes)

Course: Language Arts

Length of Course: One Year

Course Requirements:

- ✓ **Text Book Reading** – We will be using both the Holt Series, Elements of Literature: Second Course text book, this is the large red text book and the Reading Literature, Green Level text book, and this is the large green text book. These books consist of a variety of short stories, plays, poetry, activities and exercises designed to help increase your reading fluency and comprehension skills, as well as expose you to numerous literary treasures for different places and times.
 - Legends Unit
 - King Arthur, Medieval Times Unit
 - Radio Play Unit
 - Holocaust Unit
 - Poetry Unit
- ✓ **Novel Reading** – Not only will we be reading from text books, but we will also be reading and completing assignments based on different novels. You may be reading one or all of the following:
 - Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
 - The Giver by Lois Lowery
 - The Cage by Ruth Minsky-Sender
- ✓ **Vocabulary** – We will be discovering plenty of words that you didn't even know existed in exploring texts from a plethora of authors, so be prepared to read, learn, and use these new words in your everyday vocabulary.
- ✓ **Projects** – There are a few projects that accompany this course, some are individual and others are group oriented. More projects may be added, depending on course time.
 - Book Reports – This is an individual project and you will do one each quarter. You will receive a rubric to show you exactly what to do to get an A+! Think of it as a roadmap to success.
 - Medieval Times Project – This is an group project that allows you to explore an aspect of the Medieval Times that really interests you, as well as learn about other aspects through witnessing your classmates' presentations.
 - Radio Play– This is a group project. Take a step back before TV, and create a play based on voice, sounds, and imagination.
 - Book of Allusions – This project will help you to explore the origins of some of the allusions found in our novels.
- ✓ **Participation** – You are expected to participate in classroom exercises and activities, volunteer for reading, and be prepared to answer questions when called upon. **You will be given a participation grade** (see bottom).
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