



Temple Middle School Language Arts/Literature Syllabus

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Georgia Standards of Excellence English Language Arts Overview

Instruction in grades 6-8 addresses students' increasing maturity and the growing sophistication of their abilities, culminating in the development by the end of grade 8 of students who are ready to succeed in high school. Students should be able to comprehend more challenging books and articles, basing all of their analyses, inferences, and claims on explicit and relevant evidence from the texts. Students will expand on their ability to identify central ideas by identifying how those themes are shaped and conveyed by particular details. Their analysis of basic literary elements will extend to identifying connections and complexities within narratives and how individual elements weave together to advance plot and reveal character. The evaluation of the impact of language on tone and meaning will begin to include more sophisticated concepts such as analogy and allusion, subtleties in point of view such as dramatic irony, and a more sophisticated appreciation for connotative diction. These skills will be incorporated into the students' own narrative and expository writing. Students will become increasingly adept at understanding an author's biases, the use of complex rhetorical devices including logical fallacies, and tailoring his or her own prose for maximum influence. While continuing with a variety of literary non-fiction, students in grades 6-8 will begin to tackle more technical informational texts as well. Literary selections will include foundational materials from mythology, cultural histories, and religious traditions. Text complexity levels are assessed based upon a variety of indicators.

Wit & Wisdom Curriculum:

"The Wit & Wisdom program design is a framework of questioning, the Content Stages, and Content Framing Questions to engage students in the content and process of reading complex texts. These questions guide students' daily work of encountering, understanding, and analyzing complex texts. Students then distill each text's deeper meaning and articulate how the texts, individually and collectively, build their knowledge of a topic."

Volume of Reading and Fluency:

In addition to close reading of core and supplementary texts, the Wit & Wisdom learning design emphasizes the need for students to read a volume and range of texts independently. Wit & Wisdom fluency instruction is designed to foster fluency development for all readers. In lessons and homework, repeated oral readings of core texts help students to understand the texts and communicate more effectively about them. Please see attached documents for more information about Volume of Reading and Fluency.

Journals:

Students will maintain a Response Journal, a Vocabulary Journal, and a Knowledge Journal in a three-ring binder. This binder will remain in the classroom at all times. For a comprehensive list of classroom items, please see grade level supply list.

Attendance:

Students should make an effort to attend school every day. When students are absent, it not only means less instruction, but also missed opportunities for intervention, re-teaching, and enrichment.

Missed Tests or Assignments:

Late work should be turned in within three days after the student's return to school. Full credit will not be given for any late work, unless the student has an excused absence. If a student misses a test due to an excused absence, he or she will be able to take a make-up exam within two days of returning to school.



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Student Technology:

We have one-to-one technology in the classroom. Students are to keep cell phones and all technology (including smart watches, Fitbits, etc.) in their locker at ALL times. If a student does not follow the cellphone/technology policy, the device will be taken up and will require parent pick-up in the front office.

Plagiarism/Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is expected on all assignments. Plagiarism is defined as presenting the work of another as one's own. Cheating on an assignment or assessment is another activity that violates ethics and school rules. Any work that exhibits cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero, parental notification, and disciplinary action may be taken.

Grades:

The weighted categories for Language Arts classes are as follows:

Formative assessments (Checks for Understanding, Focusing Question Tasks, Journal Tasks, Question Sets, Supplemental Daily Classwork) **60%**

Summative assessments (Pulse Checks, End of Module Tasks, New Reads, Socratic Seminars) **40%**

**Grades are available online using the Infinite Campus gradebook system. We encourage students and parents to regularly check Infinite Campus to monitor student progress.*

Class Rules:

1. Respect the teacher, classmates, and self.
2. Take responsibility for completing tasks and assignments.
3. Respect the classroom learning environment.
4. Follow all grade level expectations, school, and county policies as stated in the handbook.

Behavior consequences and discipline: (Refer to TMS Handbook)

I am looking forward to an exciting and challenging year of learning. Please email or call me if you wish to discuss your child's progress. Parents and students, please sign below that you have read and understand this ELA syllabus and return by _____.

Parent Signature: _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____