



# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts

2020-2021

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## **Overview**

Welcome to 8th Language Arts! Our focus this school year will be learning and developing our skills as critical thinkers, readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and viewers. The development and mastery of these important literacy skills are not only important to achieving success in the Language Arts classroom; they are critical components of achieving success in other school subjects, building strong relationships with others, and attaining a flourishing career as an adult. Basically, the quality of life you experience now through adulthood will depend a lot on how well you read, write, and communicate with others.

In order to develop these critical literacy skills, we will be reading a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts and engaging in many informal and formal writing tasks in order to better understand ourselves and our place in the world through various conceptual lenses. We will be gaining new ideas and perspectives through reading, analyzing, discussing, and viewing various media. On a regular basis, we will think critically about what we have read, heard, or viewed and effectively articulate our thoughts and ideas through speaking and writing.

The curriculum for this course is based on the English Language Arts Georgia Standards of Excellence which can be found at <https://www.georgiastandards.org>.

## **Supplies**

- 1.5 inch three ring binder with clear front cover
- 5 tab dividers
- Notebook paper
- Pencils
- Highlighters (at least 3 colors)

## **Classroom Wish List**

- Copy paper
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfecting wipes
- Tissue
- Paper Towels
- 1 pack of copy paper

## **Classroom Procedures/Discipline**

I have high expectations for my students. We will work hard in class; our behavior policies and procedures help to ensure that we have the greatest chance for success in this class. Your behavior and attitude play a significant role in your ability to do well; disruptive students jeopardize not only their own success, but also the success of the class as a whole. Failure to follow school rules and classroom rules will result in disciplinary action.

Students are expected to behave at all times. There will be times we have fun, but we have so much work to do, that it is essential for everyone to come to class ready to work, learn, and succeed. My discipline plan aligns with the school wide discipline card system.

## My classroom rules:

- Be Respectful
- Be Prepared
- Be Ready to Learn

## Classwork

- Assignments:

We will work hard in my class. The amount of material we need to cover is massive, so we must work diligently to get through all of it. I expect everyone to participate with a positive attitude. I ensure that each student has the greatest chance of success by sticking to a remediation plan. For each assessment, a student must receive 75% or above to show mastery of the concept. If a student does not master a topic I may have the student redo the assignment or I will remediate with a different version or re-teaching with new strategies. These types of assignments, that monitor a student's mastery of a standard, will be remediated and the new grade will take the place of the original.

The grading percentage scale is as follows:

Grade Type	Percentage
Major (Test)	40%
Minor (Quiz)	30%
Daily (Classwork)	15%
Final Exam	15%

- Required Reading

We will have a grade wide reading program again this year. Each student is required to **read one book per month this semester.** Each month students will complete a **BOOK REPORT** via Google Classroom.

In order to count toward assigned reading, student must read books that are at their reading level. Each book must be worth **at least 10 RC Points.** The student does not have to take the RC test to receive credit, but RC Points help us to gauge the level of the books being chosen.

If a student chooses to read a book that is over **20 RC Points** will count as two books.

If a student reads multiple books in one month the second may count as the next month reading (so in theory, a student could read 5 books in August and be finish with their assignment reading for the whole semester!).

Books read as a class in any class will NOT count toward assigned reading; this includes books that are read in previous grade levels as a class (i.e. The Outsiders, Hatchet, etc.)

## Reading Due Dates

### Fall:

August 31st  
September 30<sup>th</sup>  
October 30<sup>th</sup>  
December 4<sup>th</sup>

### Spring:

January 29<sup>th</sup>  
February 26<sup>th</sup>  
March 26<sup>th</sup>  
April 30<sup>th</sup>

- Homework:

I purposely push my students to work hard every day in class with little no downtime so that I do not have to give them homework. Usually the only time a student will need to do an assignment at home is when they did not finish an assignment from that day in class. I personally believe that time at home should be spent with family and friends and doing the many activities that help our students to become well-rounded individuals.