

English 8
Ms. Gaffney, Ms. Martino & Ms. Mastracchio
Phone #: (631) 367-6832

An important goal for a student of English is to become a better reader, writer, and thinker. This goal is remembered as the class reads novels, short stories, poetry, and full-length plays. Speaking, writing, and listening skills will also be emphasized in preparation for the new Common Core State Standards and the New York State English Language Arts Exam. Finally, grammar and vocabulary will keep students challenged.

LITERATURE

NOVELS

The Pearl

The Cage

The Outsiders

On Borrowed Time (full-length play)

Lost in Yonkers (full-length play)

Twelve Angry Men (full-length play)

AUTHORS

John Steinbeck

Ruth Minsky Sender

S. E. Hinton

Paul Osborn

Neil Simon

Reginald Rose

SHORT STORIES

Students will read a variety of short stories from a collection titled *Currents in Fiction* as well as other selected pieces. Students will learn the literary elements and the plot structure chart.

VOCABULARY

Students will complete units (20 words each) in *Vocabulary Workshop* Level C. Vocabulary from literature will be studied as well.

All words can be found on Vocabulary Workshop Online

www.vocabularyworkshop.com

GRAMMAR

Heath Grammar Text

The 8 Parts of Speech

Clauses: subordinate, insubordinate, adjective, adverb

Action vs. Linking Verbs

Simple, Compound, and Complex Sentences

Sentence Patterns

Prepositional Phrases- adjective and adverb

Verbals: Gerunds, Participles, and Infinitives

PORTFOLIOS

A portfolio will be kept in the classroom for each student. Tests, quizzes, and writing assignments will be collected in the folder. The folder will serve as a safe place to store all important work that will be needed for review at the end of the year. Students will also have a grading sheet to keep track of their quarter grades.

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BE PREPARED FOR CLASS

Each day students must bring a three ring binder, a writing utensil, the homework assignment pad and the book the class is currently using. The binder will be divided into **three** sections: **grammar, literature and vocabulary**. Each student begins the quarter with 100 points. If he or she is unprepared for class, five points are taken off his/her homework/preparedness average.

If students are absent on the day of a test or quiz, they are expected to take the test the day they return to school. Students will be aware of test dates at least three days in advance.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework assignments will be an extension of the classwork in the form of reading, study guide questions, writing or practice exercises in the vocabulary or grammar texts. Homework is a major part of each student's responsibility and constitutes a **significant** portion of the quarter grade. Each student begins with 100 points and when a student misses or does not complete an assignment, the student loses five points.

Example: If a student misses five homework assignments in one quarter, his or her homework average is a 75. This grade counts twice at the end of the quarter.

PARTICIPATION

Each student is responsible for his or her work and his or her behavior. A large part of being successful in school is staying organized and managing time properly. Each student will begin the quarter with an 85 participation average. Students can improve this grade with positive behavior and active participation. On the other hand, points will be deducted for disruptive behavior and lack of effort.

QUARTER GRADES

Grades are based on tests, quizzes, essays, creative pieces, homework, and participation.

Tests and Essays	200 points each
Quizzes	100 points each
Homework	200 points
Participation	200 points

There will be approximately 1300 -- 1800 points per quarter.

