

Mercer Middle/High School

Course Description:

In Reading 8, the students will be learning English Language Arts (ELA) concepts with a focus on reading that align to the PA Common Core Standards (CCS).

1. **Foundational skills** – In elementary school, students have gained working knowledge of reading basics such as fluency and comprehension. In this course, reading comprehension will be a focus as we strive to improve inferencing skills as well.
2. **Informational Text** – The students read, understand, and respond to informational text, with emphasis on comprehension, making connections among ideas and between texts with focus on textual evidence. Students will read various non-fiction passages. While in 8th grade, we will cross curriculum as students will read informational text in history and science classes.
3. **Literature** – Students read and respond to works of literature, with emphasis on comprehension, making connections among ideas and between texts with focus on textual evidence. The students will read literature and short stories from the Prentice Hall Literature Textbook but mostly from novels like The Face on the Milk Carton, Freedom Crossing, Nightjohn, and Slam.
4. **Writing** – Writing will be more of a focus in English 8. In Reading 8, students will be writing as well. They will be expected to write paragraph answers, essay responses, and text-dependent analysis.
5. **Speaking & Listening** – The students present appropriately in formal speaking situations, listen critically, and respond productively and appropriately in group discussions.

Instructional Materials:

- Binder and notebook (provided by student)
- Skill Lessons
- Interactive Worksheets
- Oral and Written Instruction
- Novels and selected reading passages
- PA Common Core themed reading passages, writing prompts, and bellringer questions
- Prentice Hall Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes (Silver Level) – Short Stories and Poems (“Paul Revere’s Ride”, “Western Wagons”, “The Drummer Boy of Shiloh”, “Underground Railroad”, “Lincoln: A Photobiography”, “O Captain My Captain!”, “Harriet Beecher Stowe”)

Assessments:

- Summative Assessments
- Literary device concept worksheets
- Character and story maps
- Novel comprehension questions and vocabulary with assessments
- Text-Dependent Analysis
- Inferencing from short stories and poetry; formative assessments

Classroom Expectations:

The classroom expectations are simple, The 3 P's. Arrive to class on time. The student must bring a pencil and required materials to class. However, some materials will remain in the classroom such as the Literature Textbook. The student will take novels, question packets, and worksheets from the room to complete homework. Finally, the student must have a positive attitude towards himself/herself, peers, and teachers.

The 3 Ps

1. Pencil
2. Prepared
3. Positive

Academic Integrity

"Students caught cheating, plagiarizing, copying homework and/or test, quizzes, and using a paper from the Internet will be given a "0" (zero) on that assignment. In addition, their name will be reported to the office and filed in the event of future violations. Repeated violation could result in removal from class and a non-passing grade."

Grading Scale:

96.5 A+	86.5 B+	76.5 C+	66.5 D+
92.5 A	82.5 B	72.5 C	62.5 D
89.5 A-	79.5 B-	69.5 C-	59.5 D-

Homework:

Homework assignments will be practice PSSA reading passages, reading assigned pages from novel, answering comprehension questions, and completing various projects/assignments that coincide with reading selections. Any student who is absent has the responsibility of asking for assignments upon return, and he/she will be expected to complete the assignment in the same time frame.

Homework Philosophy

"The application of homework within almost every learning activity is a valuable means of reinforcement and evaluation. It is the teacher's role to define such assignments and the responsibility of the students to complete them on time. Parents must also assume their responsibility in regard to student homework; therefore, proper communication between the home and the school are vital in establishing assignments, which can significantly contribute to the overall educational process."

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