

Course: Language Arts II **Instructor:** Jan Snyder-Hess

Academic Year: 2008-09

Course Description: Students will continue the study of language arts: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. There will be opportunities to read and discuss short stories, poems, and novels, and to write about what you have read. Understanding the connection between real-life and literature is an important component of the English curriculum. Students will continue to study grammar concepts and have regular vocabulary lessons. It is important to participate actively in class discussions, sharing ideas, asking questions, and listening attentively.

Textbooks:

1. *Prentice Hall Literature*, Silver Level
2. *Vocabulary for Achievement*, Level 2
3. *Prentice Hall Writing and Grammar Exercises*, Silver Level

Required Materials:

1. Large 3-ring binder with dividers
2. Lined paper
3. Pencils and blue or black pens
4. Composition journal or 1-subject notebook

Grading Procedure: Your trimester grade will be based on the following combination of assessments:

Tests 25% Reading Workshop 15%

Essays 25% Final Exam 25%

Quizzes 10%

Grading Scale:

1. to A+ 90-100 D- to D+ 60-69
2. to B+ 80-89 F 0-59
3. to C+ 70-79

Homework/ Classroom Policies:

1. Homework is generally not collected or graded, but it *is* checked regularly and it is expected that you will be diligent in its completion.
2. It is important to complete reading assignments on time, since a “reading check” may be given at any time to check for understanding.
3. A graded assignment must be submitted on the due date, or risk the penalty of losing 10% per late day.
4. Always be neat, using your best handwriting skills.

Classroom Policies:

1. Be prepared! Come to class with your appropriate books and all materials, including homework.
2. You are responsible for any work or information that is given in class in your absence. Be pro-active! You may email me for information about missed work.
3. **Reading Workshop:** During the hour-block class, you are expected to bring an appropriate book to class for our D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) program. There are books available from my classroom collection as well as the school library. Upon the completion of a book, you are required to fill out a Story Map that outlines the important literary aspects of the work. These are then placed in your personal folder that is kept in the classroom. You will also keep a Reading Log of the number of pages you have completed in each marking period, since there are specific page requirements for earning your individual grade in Reading Workshop. (More information about this will be handed out during the first day of class.)
4. Be on time!
5. Be respectful of others and their property.
6. Gum chewing is not permitted at Linden Hall.
7. Do not put trash in your desks. There is a waste basket available for that purpose!

English 8 Outline

This outline lists only the major units that will be covered in class. Vocabulary, composition, essays, and tests will be added regularly. Daily edits are a common class starter! Quick Writes and journal writing will be interspersed as well.

Trimester 1

Week Topics

- 1 Introductions/ Get-to-know you activities; short stories
- 2 literary terms; short stories; grammar (nouns/ pronouns)
- 3 short stories; grammar (nouns/pronouns)
- 4 Grammar test; grammar (action and linking verbs)
- 5 short stories; grammar (verbs /transitive and intransitive)
- 6 short stories; poetry; grammar (adjectives/adverbs)
- 7 short stories
- 8 Review and Short Story Test, parts I and II
- 9 personal narrative; grammar (punctuation/ commas)
- 10 personal narrative; grammar (punctuation/commas)
- 11 Review/ Final Exam

Trimester 2

Week Topics

- 1 short stories; grammar (punctuation/semi-colons)

Thanksgiving Vacation

- 2 *Flowers for Algernon*; grammar (punctuation/hyphens and colons)
- 3 *Flowers for Algernon*; grammar (quotation marks)
- 4 poetry; literature test

Christmas Vacation

- 5 Poetry; grammar test
- 6 Return tests and discuss; Holocaust video
- 7 Holocaust video; Drama: *The Diary of Anne Frank*
- 8 *The Diary of Anne Frank*
- 9 *The Diary of Anne Frank*

10 Literature test; grammar (prepositions)

11 *The Pearl*; grammar (parts of the sentence)

12 *The Pearl*; grammar (parts of the sentence & complements)

Trimester 3

Week Topics

1 *The Pearl*; poetry

2 Literature test; poetry

3 persuasive essay; Non-fiction literature selections

4 Non-fiction literature; persuasive essay

Spring Break

5 grammar (fragments and run-ons); poetry

6 *Farewell to Manzanar*

Easter Break

7 *Farewell to Manzanar*; grammar (subject/verb agreement)

8 *Farewell to Manzanar*; grammar (pronoun/antecedent agreement)

9 *Farewell to Manzanar*; report writing

10 Literature test; report writing

11 video; grammar test

12 Comprehensive Review/ Final Exam

English 8 Outline

This outline does not represent a chronological listing of the works or skills to be studied, but rather lists the specific titles of works and areas of focus within each unit of study.

Vocabulary

1. Lesson format

1. Workbook exercises
1. Definitions
2. Writing words correctly
3. Using words correctly
4. Choosing the best word
5. Using different forms of words
6. Reading comprehension
2. Roots, Prefixes, Suffixes

2. Grammar

1. Parts of Speech
1. Nouns-common, proper, collective, compound
2. Pronouns-personal, demonstrative, interrogative, indefinite, relative
3. Verbs – linking, action, transitive, intransitive, irregular
4. Adjectives
5. Adverbs
6. Prepositions
7. Conjunctions and interjections
2. Punctuation
1. Commas
2. Semi-colons and colons
3. Hyphens
4. Apostrophes and quotation marks
3. Agreement

1. Subject/verb
2. Pronoun/antecedent
4. Parts of the Sentence
 1. Subject
 2. Predicate
 3. Complements
5. Daily Edits – practice finding errors in a paragraph

II. Literature

1. Short Stories
 1. “A Retrieved Reformation”
 2. “The Tell-Tale Heart”
 3. “Raymond’s Run”
 4. “The White Umbrella”
 5. “Charles”
 6. “A Ribbon for Baldy”
 7. “Flowers for Algernon”
 8. “Tears of Autumn”
2. Drama
 1. *The Diary of Anne Frank*
3. Non-Fiction
 1. *from I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
 2. *Harriet Tubman: Guide to Freedom*
 3. *from Lincoln: A Photobiography*
 4. “Debbie”
4. The Novel
 1. *The Pearl*

2. *A Farewell to Manzanar*
5. Poetry
 1. "The Road Not Taken"
 2. "O Captain! My Captain!"
 3. "Taught Me Purple"
 4. "Those Winter Sundays"
 5. "Mushrooms"
 6. "The Wreck of the Hesperus"
 7. "The Secret Heart"
 8. "The Centaur"

III. Composition

1. Personal Narrative
2. Persuasive essay
3. Report Writing
4. Journal Responses

