

English Language Arts Grade 6 Syllabus 2012-2013

Teacher: Mrs. Emily Gray

Room : 109

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Tutorials: before & after school by appointment

About this Course

Through this course, you will become a better reader, writer, listener, and speaker. There are four Common Core broad standards that drive everything we do in this class—reading, writing, listening/speaking, and language.

Here are some things we will be working on:

- 🕒 **Vocabulary & Grammar-** Word Within the Word, in context analysis of grammar, and authentic daily practice
- 🕒 **Writing-** personal narratives, persuasive & argumentative essays, informational/expository writing, creative writing, poetry, and much more!
- 🕒 **Reading-** class novels such as *Black Ships Before Troy*, textbook selections, and personal interest novels of your choice
- 🕒 **Media-** analysis of film, music, and advertisements, understanding bias and propaganda

Materials Needed

- 🕒 pencil or pen
- 🕒 AG agenda
- 🕒 homework folder
- 🕒 **two** composition notebooks (no spirals)
- 🕒 notebook paper
- 🕒 binder with dividers

Grading Policy

Your grade consists of formal, informal, and homework grades.

Formal- tests and quizzes will count as 45% of your total grade

Informal- writing assignments, participation, and projects will count as 45% of your total grade

Homework- reading logs, Word Within the Word contracts, etc. will count as 10% of your total grade

*Your current course grade is posted on the back wall in the classroom, and you are encouraged to check your grade online through Parent Assistant.

Tutorials

If you need tutorial time, I am available any day before (as early as 7am) or after school (as late as 6pm) with at least one day's notice. You may schedule your tutorial with me in person, email, website contact form, or by phone. Please make sure you have a ride to pick you up after tutoring and have your parent/guardian's permission to attend.

Participation & Class Work

Participation in class is very important. Through participation, you will retain information better, develop your communication skills, and be a part of our classroom team. Our class has a "No Opt Out" policy, meaning that you cannot opt-out of participating in class. Working in groups and partnerships, making arguments, answering questions, or presenting your writings are some ways you may participate on a daily basis. Every day you will have a warm-up in your Writer's Notebook (practice in grammar, analogies, and a creative writing prompt). Most days you should expect to take notes.

Late Work & Make-Up Work Policy

Late work is accepted up to five days late with a five point deduction for each day it is late.

If your absence is excused, you will have up to three days for every one day you are absent for classwork & homework, and will have five days to make up quizzes/tests without any penalty. If your absence is unexcused, you will have one day to complete missed assignments for each day you were out.

Homework

Students will average approximately 20-30 minutes each evening on language arts homework. Assignments may consist of Word Within the Word vocabulary practice, self-selected reading/reading log, projects, drafting of written assignments, etc. Each week, you will have a Word Within the Word contract to complete, with a quiz every other week. Additionally, you will complete two reading logs each quarter (one each four weeks). The required reading for each week is two hours/120 minutes for a total of eight hours/480 minutes per reading log.

Procedures

Warm-Up

Each day, you will come into class quietly and begin the warm-up immediately. To do the warm-up, you must have something to write with and your Writer's Notebook. Writer's Notebooks stay in the classroom. The warm-up consists of three parts: P.I.G., Analogy, and Write into the Day. For the P.I.G. (practice in grammar), you will correct grammatical and spelling errors in one-two sentences. For the analogy, you will complete the analogy and write what the relating factor is... don't worry—you will be an expert at this by the middle of the year! Finally, you will complete the warm-up with a Write into the Day creative writing prompt. This is your chance to be creative and have fun. We regularly share our Write into the Days.

Getting Materials

Do you need a pencil? Check the pencil pot. Make sure you return your pencil before leaving the class.

Do you need paper? Paper is provided on the front table.

Learning Logs- you may take your learning log home with you for homework help and to study for quizzes.

If you decide to leave your learning log in the classroom, I will pass it out to you when needed.

Turning in Work

All homework, class work, makeup work, etc. should be turned into the inbox in the back of the room.

Remember to place your work in the correct drawer- it's numbered for your class block. Make sure the proper AG heading is on all turned in work.

Class Rules

You are expected to follow school rules at all times. In addition to the school rules, there are three general class rules:

1. Be Polite

Say "please" and "thank you", listen to others, do not disrespect anyone or anything.

2. Be Prepared

Come to class with a pencil, pen, paper, learning log, binder, homework folder, and anything else you may need for that day.

3. Be Productive

This class is fast-paced and contains a lot of information. You need to be actively involved in class at all times. Your reward for being productive- you will never be bored and you will retain what you learn!

Restroom Use

Everyone will receive a new set of restroom passes each quarter, attached to your agenda. When used in class, you may not leave the first or last 15 minutes of class. The best times for you to use the bathroom are before AE/AR or during lunch when we share a class restroom pass (you won't need your agenda at these times). All other times, you will use one of your restroom passes.

Cell Phones

If you choose to bring your cell phone to school, it should be **turned off** and in your locker or pocket. You will receive one verbal reminder as your warning before your cell phone will be confiscated and given to the office for a parent/guardian to pick up. The only exception for having a cell phone on during school hours would be if a teacher has given you permission for a school-related activity. Abuse of these exceptions will result in the privilege being revoked.

Consequences

As a team, we have a "3 Strikes" consequence system. The first strike is a verbal warning. The second strike may include the follow consequences: silent lunch, silent F.A.T., seat change, and/or parent contact. The third and final strike is a "bounce" to another the hallway isolation desk, another classroom, and/or an office referral with parent contact. If the behavior is severe, the student may immediately be escorted from the classroom.

Parent/Guardian Request Agreement

- 🕒 Provide a quiet place for homework/study
- 🕒 Provide time (average of 30 minutes per content area) each night for homework/study
- 🕒 Ask your student what he/she did in school each day
- 🕒 If you have any questions/concerns, please contact me as soon as possible

My Commitments to You

- To listen, be caring, patient, and respectful
- Teach to the best of my ability
- Keep you safe and free from embarrassment
- Do all I can to make being in our class valuable and effective

I'm looking forward to working with you this year! If we work together, we will all have a successful 6th grade year.