

## Syllabus

**Teacher:** MaryEllen DiPietro

**Course/Grade Level:** Grade 8 Language Arts

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### **Instructional Materials:**

*Write Source 2000, Read for Real, Houghton Mifflin English Grade 8*

Novels may be chosen from the eighth grade novel list; this includes the following: *The Giver; Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry; Farewell to Manzanar; The Contender; The Call of the Wild; The Diary of Anne Frank (play); Surviving the Applewhites; Flowers for Algernon*

### **Major Topics Covered:**

#### I. Composition

5 Step Writing Process: Previewing, Drafting, Revising, Editing, Publication; Formal vs. Informal Writing; Comparison/Contrast Paper; Creative Writing/Poetry; Descriptive/Narrative Writing; Expository Essays; Letter Writing; Persuasive Essays; Book Review

#### II. Composition/Literature Connection

Students will analyze and apply the following literary elements to their reading and writing:

##### Elements of Fiction

Setting, Character, Point of View, Plot, Theme, Internal vs. External Conflict, Tone, Symbolism, Mood

##### Elements of Nonfiction

Autobiography, Biography, Essays, Newspapers, Speeches

##### Elements of Poetry

Figurative Language – simile, personification, metaphors

Form – ballads, haiku

Sound Devices – alliteration, assonance, resonance

Imagery – sensory

##### Literary Devices

Inference, Flashback, Foreshadowing

##### Oral Presentations

Speaking and Listening Skills, Discussion Skills, Conventions and Structures of the English Language

##### Parts of Speech

Grammar, Usage, Sentence Structure, Mechanics

### **Assessment Devices:**

Tests, Quizzes, Essays, Projects, Journals, FCA's, Effort, Homework, Class Binder

Incorporation of students' Special Education Plans or 504 Accommodations

### **Homework Expectations:**

Homework is assigned on a regular basis. Homework includes overnight assignments, long-term writing assignments, reading, studying, or other activities related to class instruction that day/week. Completed homework is expected the next day or on due date.

### **Makeup Policy:**

Students will be given any necessary assignments they miss and will be allowed sufficient time to complete the missed work. Students are expected to see Ms. DiPietro to get their missed assignments when they return to school.

### **General Information:**

Agenda books, notebooks, and writing/reading materials should be brought to class each day.

\*Adjustments to this syllabus may be made to accommodate student needs.