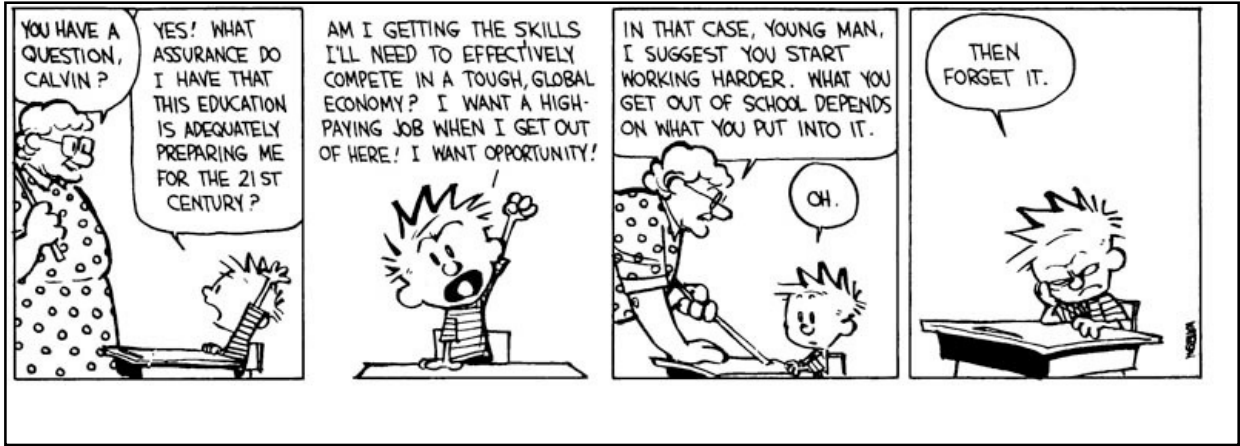


Ms. Robin Bowman
Eighth Grade English Language Arts
 Powell Middle School
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 Cell phone: Available Upon Request



Course Description:

Eighth Grade English/Language Arts (ELA) will focus on both reading and writing. Students will read a variety of texts including fiction and nonfiction. The written component includes various forms of language including grammar, conventions, vocabulary, and spelling. Students will use a range of texts to enhance their understanding, develop writing conventions, and apply language skills in both speaking and listening.

Grade Categories

Fall Semester: (ELA)

Benchmark Assessments	3%
All other Daily Work	97%

Fall Semester: (Honors):

Benchmark Assessment	3%
Honors Midterm	10%
All other Daily Work	87%

Spring Semester (All Classes)

Benchmark Assessment	3%
TCAP	15%
All other Daily Work	82%

Student Materials

- A folder or binder to hold work
- Loose Leaf, Wide-Ruled Paper
- Pens (green) for revision and grading
- Highlighters (any color)
- Post-It notes (multiple; any color)

State Revised Curriculum Standards:

The standards for ELA are divided into five strands:

- Reading: Literature (RL) and Informational Text (RI)
- Writing (W)
- Speaking and Listening (SL)
- Language (L)
- Foundation K-5 Literacy

To view the academic standards for 8th grade ELA, please visit:

<https://www.tn.gov/education/article/english-language-arts-standards>

Texts and Resources:

Writer's Choice Grammar and Composition - Glencoe *Elements of Literature* – Holt

Writer's Choice Literature – Glencoe

Prentice Hall Literature – Pearson

Current events articles to be used in class discussions and assignments may be pulled from but not limited to the following: NEWSELA, commonlit.org, etc. Students will be reading both literary and informational extended and shorter texts.

Novel Studies we may complete this year:

Chains

The Count of Monte Cristo

Night

The Pearl

Warriors Don't Cry

Jefferson's Sons

The Boy Who Dared

Videos:

Some examples of videos that may be used to enhance lessons and engage students in classroom discussion and writing strategies are:

Life is Beautiful

Hidden Figures

On Native Soil

Charley (Flowers for Algernon)

Clips from Discovery Education

The Count of Monte Cristo

Clips from *commonlit.org*

The Phantom of the Opera teleplay
Night

Oprah's Interview of Elie Wiesel at Auschwitz

Knox County policy states that a student must request absence work within 3 days of return to school. Failure of the student to initiate a request for the make-up work will result in lost opportunity for credit. **See your agenda**

Make-Up /Absence Work:

Please check the white notebook labeled "What Did I Miss?", located in the "Student Supply Center" of the classroom. If a student is absent on a day that handouts are provided, then they will find a copy upon return to class in the Absent Work binder. Given adequate planning and preparation time, students are expected to make up any tests/quizzes on the day they return to school from an absence. If students have extended absences, then alternative make up work deadlines may be arranged.

Writing Portfolio:

Throughout the year, students will work on various pieces of writing that provide the opportunity to demonstrate mastery with ALL modes of writing. Towards the end of **each** module (9 weeks), students will choose ONE writing piece to take through the entire writing process and submit it for evaluation/grading. This piece will be placed in your writing portfolio. Electronic portfolios may be used this year on Google Drive.

Grading Scale:

Students will earn grades based on daily work, homework, quizzes, projects, and tests. The current grading scale is as follows:

- A 93-100
- B 85-92
- C 75-84
- D 70-74
- F 0-69

Behavior Expectations:

Be prepared. Be on time. Be respectful. Be attentive. Strive for excellence.

Knox County's Policy on Religion in Curriculum:

While a link to Knox County's policy on Religion in the Curriculum is provided, I have included the wording of it below.

<http://knoxschools.org/cms/lib7/TN01917079/Centricity/domain/974/policies2016/I-431%20Religion%20>

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion—and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective and respectful manner in accordance with the following:

- 1. Music, art, literature, or drama with a religious theme or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
- 2. The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature and history shall be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies shall never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs; and
- 3. Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments, which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme, shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to express religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech and debate

Plagiarism: According to Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition: *“Plagiarism is defined as “presenting someone else’s ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased.”*

It includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Copying verbatim all or part of another’s written work;
2. Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;
3. Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source;
4. Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.”

CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM--*Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accepting a grade letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents should be involved in making the decision.*

Please sign and return this portion ONLY: I have received a copy of and read through Ms. Bowman’s 2019-2020 English Language Arts syllabus, which includes the policy on plagiarism. Please add your contact information below. A copy of this syllabus will be posted on Aspen.

Student Name: _____ Parent Name: _____

Email/phone: _____