

Mrs. Amanda Scott
Eighth Grade English Language Arts
Powell Middle School
Amanda.scott@knoxschools.org
School office phone: 865-938-9008

Course Description

Eighth Grade English/Language Arts (ELA) will focus on both reading and writing. Students will read a variety of texts including both 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:

Benchmark Assessment	3%
All other Daily Work	97%

Spring Semester (All Classes):

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

Student Materials

- 1” or larger 3 ring binder
- Loose Leaf paper
- Pencils (regular and colored)
- Pens (any color)
- Highlighters (any color)
- Post-It notes (multiple; any color)

State Curriculum Standards

The standards for ELA are divided into six strands:

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

For more information about the academic standards for 8th grade ELA, please visit:

<https://www.tn.gov/education/article/englishlanguage-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: Time Magazine, The New York Times, Knoxville News Sentinel, Washington Post, CNN.com, Tennessee Electronic Library, NEWSELA, etc. Students will be reading both literary and informational extended work, as well as shorter texts.

Behavior Expectations: Be respectful. Be prepared. Give your best effort.

Make-Up /Absence Work:

Please check the white Absent Work binder on the supplies table in the front 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.

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 agenda page 5.

Novel Studies we may complete this year:

The Pearl

Jefferson's Sons

The Lions of Little Rock

The Boy Who Dared

The Count of Monte Cristo

Night

The Killer Angels

Phantom of the Opera teleplay

Warriors Don't Cry

Hidden Figures

April Morning

Videos:

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

Paperclips

Oprah's Interview of Elie Wiesel at Auschwitz

Charley (Flowers for Algernon)

Clips from Teacher Tube

<http://www.annefrank.org/en/Subsites/Home/>

Clips from CNN.com

Flight 93 (NOT the movie version)

On Native Soil

Hidden Figures

Clips from Discovery Education

The Count of Monte Cristo

Phantom of the Opera

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

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:

I have received a copy of and read through Mrs. Scott’s 2019-2020 English Language Arts syllabus. Please add your contact information below. A copy of this syllabus will be posted on Aspen.

Student Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Email/phone: _____