

8th Grade Honors Reading

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the foundation for high school honors language arts courses. Thematic units have been conceived at a level of detail that will support meaningful diagnostic assessments and effective instruction. Reading instruction will draw on prior knowledge and analytical skills. Comprehension will be monitored as students connect to text. Writing pieces will be assigned and assessed. Students will apply their comprehension to texts through writing reader responses. Each quarter's work will center on a specific theme. Both fiction and nonfiction will be used to supplement the quarter's novel.

COURSE WORK

Students will read one core novel each quarter that illustrates that quarter's theme. This novel will be discussed in class, but a majority of the reading will be done at home. Eighth grade reading utilizes a system of stations. Students will travel through a six-station rotation weekly. It is imperative for success that students are proactive in taking responsibility for their own learning in class.

In addition to the core novel your student reads with the class each quarter, s/he will also be responsible for reading a novel independently. Students will need to complete projects to illustrate their understanding of their independent reading. Project guidelines vary and will be distributed at the beginning of each quarter.

GRADING POLICY

Grades will be calculated using a total point system.

Any assignment not turned in on time will have point deductions as follows:

Homework or class assignments

10% deduction—1 day late or not turned in at the beginning of class period it is due

40% deduction—2+ days late

Projects

10% deduction for each day after the due date (a total possible deduction of 40%)

After the completion of a unit, no assignment(s) from that unit will be accepted for credit.

COURSE RESOURCES

- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- A minimum of four additional novels—student choice (at least one classic novel and one of the following: *Berlin Boxing Club*, *Forgotten Fire*, *Prisoner B-3087*, *Between Shades of Grey*, *First They Killed My Father*)
- *Literature: Course 3* by Glencoe
- *Achieve3000*