

ELA 8

English Language Arts

“Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else’s shoes for awhile.”

Marjorie Blackman

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Course Content: Use my website (available through the AMSA site) to find assignments and directions for coursework.



Course Description:

Welcome to 8th grade English Language Arts! Our theme for the year in ELA is empathy: empathy for ourselves as learners, for our classmates, and for those we discover in our reading and writing. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking will be the tools we use to build these bridges of empathy. Words connect us with others, allowing us to see things from another perspective. As we read articles and books, write our own stories and papers, and share our thinking with each other, we will grow as both language arts students and people of empathy!

Independent Reading:

Students are expected to have independent reading material with them at **school and home**. Students will need to find time outside of class to read independently. Students may read any genre they choose.

Independent reading logs will be used each month for students to record progress toward an individual reading goal. These are graded.

Class Materials You Need:

- Composition Notebook
- 1 inch binder (any color) with loose leaf
- Independent reading material

Grading:

- 65% Classroom Assessments
- 25% Skills/Practice/Homework
- 10% District Assessments

Requirements:

1. Bring your **supplies**: come with class materials, everyday.
2. Bring your **book**: each student needs an independent reading book, everyday.
3. Bring your **brain**: be ready to write, read, and discuss, everyday.

ELA 8 Units for the Year:

- **Trimester One:**
 - Fictional texts
 - Informational texts
- **Trimester Two:**
 - Poetry
 - Argumentative Writing
- **Trimester Three:**
 - Media Literacy
 - Speech
 - Creative Writing: Memoir



When your student says, “I have no homework...”

PLEASE ASK:

1. Did you finish all your work in ELA today?

Unlike 7th grade, ELA 8 is NOT a block class. This means we have less work time in class to finish assignments.

2. Have you read your independent reading book?

Students will not have time to read their independent reading books during class. They are expected to read outside of class every day, twenty minutes or longer, to meet their reading goals.