

8th Grade Language Arts

"If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book."

J.K. Rowling

Class Rules & Expectations: Easy as ABC

Act Responsibly:

- Come to class ready to work
 - Bring materials to class everyday
- Turn in assignments on time and in their proper location
- Be in your seat when the bell rings or you will be tardy
- Maintain a clean and orderly work area
- Do not use electronics without explicit instruction
- Put the proper headings on your paper

Be Respectful:

- Keep hands and feet to yourself
 - Don't speak while others are speaking - especially the teacher
 - Do not criticize the ideas, expressions, or opinions of others
 - Don't touch other's property
- Use Language Appropriate for Language Arts Class

Conduct Yourself appropriately:

- Use the appropriate volume level
- Listen to your teacher's instructions
- No playing around

Course Description

Welcome to 8th Grade Language Arts! Our focus this school year will be learning and developing our skills as critical thinkers, readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. The development and mastery of these important literary skills not only is important to achieving success in the Language Arts classroom, it is a critical component of achieving success in other school subjects, building strong relationships with others, and attaining a flourishing career as an adult.

What do I get if I follow class rules?

Appropriate behavior in class assures everyone of an environment conducive to learning. Some possible rewards for continuous appropriate behavior are intrinsic value (satisfaction of learning), improved skills, verbal praise, positive notes to parents, and additional rewards and incentives for consistency.

What are the consequences if I don't follow class rules?

1. Warning: the teacher provides a verbal reminder to student.
2. Student/Teacher Conference: a brief meeting to re-orient focus.
3. Detention or The Box: time spent during recess to contemplate conduct. Additional assignments for constant infractions.
4. Demerits: a mark recorded for poor conduct. Parent(s) will be contacted.
5. Referral to Administration: student will be immediately referred to administration for severe behavior problems.

Where do I go to find agendas and assignments?

Archie is the school website. This site will house the weekly agendas, assignment due dates, PDF copies of class handouts, important announcements, and more by 6 pm daily.

Please bookmark the following site and check it daily:

Website: sis.archimedean.org

What happens if I turn in an assignment late?

Work not completed and turned in **by the target date** is considered late. If a student is absent on the date work is due, the assignment is due the next class. **COMPLETED LATE WORK** will only receive partial credit (a max of 70%) and must be turned before assignments are returned. **INCOMPLETE LATE WORK** will not be graded and will result in a zero for the assignment. **If a student accumulates 3 zeroes** they will be pulled from electives to complete their work and shall receive no credit.

Grade Scale

A	100% - 90%	D	69% - 60%
B	89% - 80%	F	<=50%
C	79% - 70%		

Grade Breakdown

Tests. (Formal Assessments targeting key areas)	=	35%
Classwork / Participation. (Various activities from journaling to textual analysis)	=	25%
Quizzes (Comprehension checks)	=	25%
Homework (Variety of tasks and assignments)	=	15%



Supplies

- Two college-ruled composition books
- College-ruled loose leaf paper
- Multiple pencils
- One chunky eraser
- Either a folder or a binder divider to dedicate to Language Arts class
- One set of four or more highlighters
- Pens (Blue or Black)
- Colored correcting pens
- Pocket Dictionary / thesaurus
- Highlighters

How will I check my grade in class?

Parents and students are also strongly encouraged to check the **Parent Portal** on a regular basis to view the most current grades for EVERY class. Report cards and progress reports will be distributed periodically.

What do I do if I am absent?

Always check the class Archie site for agendas, handouts, and assignment due dates. A student has two extra days to turn in any work **assigned** on a day a student was absent. If a quiz was administered on a day a student was absent, the quiz must be made up on the **first** class day the student returns. If previously assigned work was due on the day of the absence, the work is due on the **first** day the student returns otherwise it is considered late and will only receive 70% credit.

Do I have to read outside of class?

Yes. All students will be expected to read independently as Students must bring a reading book to school, so they are prepared for Language Arts. Many of the assignments – both inside and outside of class – will be tied to the readings.

What skills will I practice this year?

We will be expanding on tools and skills that students have been working till now while incorporating new ones too. For grammar, we will be utilizing the website **NoRedInk** to supplement activities in class. We will also work on refining argumentative writing by incorporating solid, text-based evidence. We will work on poetry and break down literary devices. We will also be reading non-fiction which requires a different approach as a reader from novels. Don't worry, we'll go through it.

What is an Interactive Student Notebook?

The **Interactive Student Notebook** (ISN) is a portfolio of student work. The notebook will feature teacher directed notes / activities, which will showcase student understanding of material in a creative and unique manner answering questions or jotting down general thoughts on a subject in relation to readings and other activities. A college-ruled composition book will be used for the ISN. The ISN will be a major component of the classwork grade. Classwork, notes, study guides, AND vocabulary, will be completed in the ISN, so it is imperative that it be complete and up to date.

What are we reading this year?

Q1: *The Outsiders* – S.E. Hinton / *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* Q2: *Night* – Elie Wisel Q3: *And Then There Were None* – Agatha Christie and one of the following: *House of the Scorpion* - Nancy Farmer | *The Book Thief* - Markus Zusak | *The Graveyard Book* – Neil Gaiman | *Leviathan* - Scott Westerfeld Q4: Student choice with teacher's approval. Due dates for book checks will be announced in class but buy them soon.

Please Read the course information, sign, and return this sheet to Mr. Bithman .

Students:

Please sign below to signify that you have read the course sheet for Mr. Bithman's class, you will keep it in your folder, and will be responsible for the information throughout the year, and **will check Parent Portal at least once per week.**

Student printed name

Student signature**Parents/Guardians:**

Check all the statements that apply to how you would like to communicate with Mr. Bithman about your child's progress. I will, of course, call for major concerns or accomplishments, but with so many students, I like to know how you'd prefer to communicate.

_____ I/We have internet access at home, so we will check Parent Portal periodically to check on my/our student's progress. I/We will contact Mr. Bithman about any concerns we have.

_____ I/We plan to email Mr. Bithman for an updates on grades or behavior.

_____ I/We do not have internet access at home, but I/we would like to have regular contact with Mr. Bithman. I/we will call for an update on a regular basis.

_____ Other:

Please sign below to indicate that you have read the course sheet for Mr. Bithman's class and that you will help your student be accountable for the information. If you have questions about the course or your child's work, please do not hesitate to contact me; **email is the best way to reach me quickly.** See the front of this sheet for my email address.

Parent/Guardian printed name

Parent/Guardian signature

Parent/Guardian **e-mail**
(please print)

Parent/Guardian **daytime** phone number

Parents and guardians, please **CIRCLE** the best way for me to contact you:
e-mail **phone**