
8th-Grade Honors Language Arts

Washington Middle School

Overview

In 8th-Grade Honors Language Arts, students will be further exposed to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) that are built upon throughout middle school. Students will read and analyze fiction and nonfiction texts to deepen their understanding of not only language but also the human condition.

Standards taught (CCSS)

Reading Literature, 8.1-10

- Use textual evidence to support a judgment, determine central ideas and themes, analyze the development of individuals/events/ideas, assess how point of view shapes text, evaluate content presented in diverse media, analyze how multiple texts address similar themes, determine explicit vs. inferred meanings.

Reading Informational Text, 8.1-10

- The CCSS for Informational Text mirror those for Literature.

Writing, 8.1-10

- Write to support claims, to inform and explain, to tell a story, develop and strengthen writing, use technology in writing, conduct research projects,

Speaking & Listening, 8.1-6

- Prepare for and participate in discussions, evaluate information from different media, evaluate speakers' reasoning and point of view, present information and research appropriate to task and audience.

Language, 8.1-6

- Demonstrate command of standard English and grammar, demonstrate a command of various verb forms and usage, clarify the meaning of words by using context clues, identify figurative/literal language and the use of poetic devices.

Units

Our units will each cover the CCSS using larger questions essential for the development of individuals through adolescence into adulthood and will utilize literature, non-fiction and media to mirror the experiences of real life.

1. *What decision should I make?*
 - a. Literature & Thought anthology: *Decisions, Decisions*
 - b. Novel – *The House of the Scorpion*
2. *How will my decision affect others?*
 - a. Novel – *Frankenstein*
3. *How can studying the past help the future?*
 - a. Literature & Thought anthology – *What in the World?*
 - b. Novel – *The Worst Hard Time*
 - c. Documentary – *The Dust Bowl*
4. *What does it all mean?*
 - a. Novel – *The Little Prince*

Contact Information:

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Materials

Each day, students will need:

- 3-ring binder with lined paper
- Reading Journal
- Independent Reading Book
- Pencils and pens
- Sticky notes (optional but recommended)

Expectations

- Students will arrive to class on time and with the materials listed above. **In addition, students shall bring a book for genre reading each day.**
- Students will treat everyone in the classroom with respect.
- Students will perform class work both as individuals and as part of assigned groups.
- Students will present original work and research to the assembled class.
- Students will assume responsibility for their learning.

Quarterly Performance Tasks

1st Quarter

Literary Analysis

2nd Quarter

Write and Perform a Play

3rd Quarter

Problem-Based Learning (PBL)
Culminating Project

4th Quarter

Writing Portfolio
