

# 8th Grade English Language Arts Syllabus

## Cartersville Middle School

8TH GRADE

Mrs. Mitchell

ENGLISH

### Contact Info

Email: [tmitchell@cartersvilleschools.org](mailto:tmitchell@cartersvilleschools.org)

Phone: 770-382-3666

Class Messaging and Direct Messaging: Blackboard App

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Composition Notebook
- Pens/Pencils
- Glue Stick
- Scissors
- Highlighters
- Colored pencils
- One Binder for all Classes with dividers and notebook paper

### CLASS RULES

- Commit to excellence.
- Own your own behavior.
- Demonstrate respect.
- Exhibit a positive attitude.

Students must abide by all rules listed in the Cartersville Middle School 2024-2025 Student Handbook.

### IMPORTANT DATES REPORT CARDS

October 16, 2024  
January 9, 2025  
March 19, 2025  
June 2025  
(Will be Mailed)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students increase maturity in their abilities to prepare for success at the high school level. Students will read more challenging texts and focus on developing skills in analysis, inferencing, and claims using evidence. Students will continue to increase skills in identifying central ideas and themes and explain how these are shaped by details. We will evaluate the impact of language on tone and meaning and study concepts such as analogy, allusions, figurative language, irony, and point of view, which students will incorporate into their own argumentative, narrative, and informational writing.

### STANDARDS:

This course is designed and revolves around the 8th Grade ELA Georgia Standards of Excellence

### WHAT'S AHEAD:

This year, we will be using the curriculum program, *StudySync*, which we will use to enrich our existing resources. These units incorporate a variety of excerpts and articles from literary and informational texts. Additionally, we will likely incorporate the following novels: *The Outsiders* and *Refugee*. We will focus on growing our narrative, informational, and argumentative writing skills through routine writing.

### GRADING:

The final grade is computed from a combination of summative assessment of standards-based assignments (tests, essays, and projects) and formative evidence of learning assignments (daily work, homework, and quizzes). The grades will be averaged based on the weights listed below.

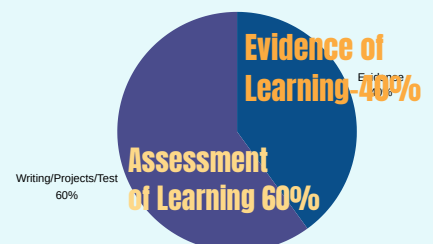
## GRADE BREAKDOWN

### Evidence of Learning

HOMEWORK, QUIZZES, SKILLS PRACTICE- 40%

### Assessments of Standards

TESTS, PROJECTS, EXTENDED WRITING-60%



2024-2025

## Missed and Late Work Policy

It is the expectation that all work missed due to any absence will be made-up. Some work by its very nature is impossible to make-up and may necessitate alternative assignments. Students should check with the teacher to see what was missed. If a student may anticipate an assignment may be late or struggling with an assignment and feel it may not be done in time, please give me advanced notice so we can come up with a plan. A zero will go in the gradebook if an assignment has not been turned in, but late work will be accepted, within reason, in the same nine-week grading period.

## Tutoring/ Extra Help

Tutoring: Please meet with me to determine the best time to work together. You are also always welcome to email me with questions.

## Plagiarism

PLAGIARISM: Ideas or words that are not one's own must be cited correctly. Failure to cite other people's words, ideas, or assistance or one's own words from a previous context will result in an automatic zero and administrative referral; this is non-negotiable.

# What We're Reading This Year

Students will be provided copies of each text that we read as a class. This year, our tentative readings will be *The Outsiders* (Semester 1) and *Refugee* (Semester 2). Students will also read shorter, non-book length texts including poems, short stories, essays, and nonfiction pieces. These texts will be provided digitally on Schoology, on *Study Sync*, or via hardcopy in class. The following novels are available to the 8th Grade ELA classes.\*

*The Outsiders*, S.E. Hinton  
*Inside Out & Back Again*, Thanhha Lai  
*The Secret Life of Bees*, Sue Monk Kidd  
*Barrio Boy*, Ernesto Galarza  
*Refugee*, Alan Gratz  
*Freedom Walkers*, Russel Freedman  
*We Beat the Street*, Sampson Davis



***\*These works/novels have been approved by the district and support the curriculum. If you wish for your student to have an alternate assignment, please contact me at [tmitchell@cartersvilleschools.org](mailto:tmitchell@cartersvilleschools.org).***

# Syllabus Acknowledgement

**You can do this on an e-form on my teacher website if preferred.**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In order to ensure that both the student and the family have read the syllabus, please sign below.

"I have read and understood the syllabus for 8th Lit ELA (or will contact Ms. Mitchell with any concerns).

**Student's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_



"I have read and reviewed this syllabus with my son or daughter."

**Family Member's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_



Please email me if you would like me to know what I can do to best meet the specific needs of your child. Feel free to contact me any time throughout the year should you have any concerns. I'm looking forward to a fantastic year!