

Mrs. Johnson's ELA Syllabus

English Language Arts consists of four fundamental standards: Reading, Writing, Language, and Speaking & Listening. Students will have five graded assignments for each standard for a total of twenty assignments each term. This means that each assignment is worth 5% of the grade for that grading period. Because students have strengths in different areas, their grades should reflect all of those areas equally to give an accurate representation of their overall skills. Data is still gathered for progress monitoring in each standard area, however, report card grades are cumulative across all four standards.

Reading:

Novels, Novel-in-verse, Short Stories, Plays: *Flowers for Algernon*, Works of Edgar Allan Poe, *Diary of Anne Frank*, *Audacity*, *Outsiders*, and various poems

Book Club: Students read a novel according to reading level, have group discussions, and present to the class

Informational Text: Science articles, Historical texts, Biographies, Current Events

Independent Reading (free choice): Three books over the course of the year - 1 per term

Writing:

Summary & Critique

Open Response - Writing about reading CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning)

Literary Analysis - (Author's Craft)

Narrative

Informational

Poetry

Argument about world issue published to website

News Articles

Free writing, journaling

Language:

Weekly word challenge: latin roots, prefixes, suffixes (preparation for SATs, traditional, and classical secondary programs)

Figurative Language

Grammar

Vocabulary: Wordly Wise 3000. New word lists and readings every two weeks.

Novel word work: Denotation vs. Connotation, Context, Visualization

Speaking & Listening:

Note-taking

Small group discussions

Whole Class formal discussions

Presentations & audience notes

Poetry Performances - in June

Plagiarism is prohibited. This is the only instance when a student could receive a 0 for an assignment.

Proficiency in any subject is 80% or above. Writing assignments that are below proficiency can be rewritten within one week for a better grade after a conference with me. Tests need to be made up one day after an absence.