

8th Grade Language Arts 2018-2019

Upper Mississippi Academy

Ms. Elizabeth Brown

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Language Arts 8 2018-2019

“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.” -Charles William Eliot

In this 8th grade Language Arts course, students will pursue knowledge through reading, writing, and many other forms of communication from around the world. Throughout this course, students will explore over-arching questions of the human experience, examining ideas like reality and justice using a variety of both non-fiction and fictional texts from around the globe. Additionally, students will participate in interdisciplinary learning to create connections from literature to the world around us.

**Units and Standards**

Unit 1: Native Origin Stories

Anchor Texts: Native American Origin stories; legends.

Unit 2: Immigration: A New Look

Anchor Texts: *Home of the Brave* by Katherine Applegate; *Shooting Kabul* by H. Senzai; *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan.

Unit 3: Latin American Research Topics

Anchor Texts: Non-fiction essays and website

Unit 4: European Book Choice Unit

Anchor Texts: *Book of Choice*

Unit 5: Middle Eastern Perspectives

Anchor Texts: *Persepolis*

Unit 6: Creative Non-fiction in Africa

Anchor Texts: *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah

Unit 7: Poetry of the East

Anchor Texts: TBD

Unit 8: Back to Our Roots

Anchor Texts: TBD

 \*Writing standards will be covered in a variety of essays and writing projects, such as informational, persuasive, and creative writing and literary analyses.

**Grades**

Grades in this class will be determined by points earned through both formative and summative assignments. While this does not follow a weighted model, summative assignments will be worth points and impact the overall grade for the class more than formative assignments will. Estimated balance of grades is as shown below:

 Daily Assignments: 40% Assessments: 40% Participation: %20

Ms. Brown uses a grading scale that is generally used by Upper Mississippi classrooms.

94% and above A

90% and above A-

87% and above B+

84% and above B

80% and above B-

77% and above C+

74% and above C

70% and above C-

67% and above D+

64% and above D

60% and above D-

59% and below F

**Classroom Policies**

Students are expected to be good contributors to the classroom environment by:

* Being good listeners, (including being respectful of others thoughts and ideas)
* Have a positive attitude
* Come to class prepared; be ready to learn at the start of class!
* Be respectful (to the classroom, peers, teachers, and yourself)
* Participate! Let us benefit from your knowledge and thoughts, but only if proceeded by you raising your hand. ☺

**Phones**

Generally, phones are prohibited during class time. If a cell phone is seen, it will be collected and returned to the student at the end of the class period. Ms. Brown will determine circumstances in which cell phones are allowed during class use.

**Absences**

If a student in absent, it is their responsibility to make up the work they missed. Assignments will be posted on the Google Classroom and Ms. Brown’s website and extra copies of paper assignments can be found in class. Assignments due on the day of the absence must be turned in one the day the student returns to school.

**Late Work**

All assignments and projects will be docked 5% off the final grade for each day late. After two

weeks, they will no longer be accepted.

All assessments (projects, tests, etc) may be retaken or redone for credit. You will have a week

from when the graded assessment is returned to retake or redo. Your final grade will be an

average of your original grade and your retake. It is up to you to arrange a retake!

**Books**

In this class, you will be responsible to books assigned to you or loaned from my classroom. If you lose a book or damage it while it is in your possession, it will be your responsibility to replace it. Be kind to our books, and they will be kind to you ☺