**Eighth Grade Language Arts Syllabus**

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**Course Description**

The eighth grade language arts curriculum stems from SpringBoard, the College Board’s official Pre-AP program. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and collaborative strategies are used purposefully to build knowledge and skills and to help students become independent readers, writers, and thinkers.

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| **Unit** | **Texts** | **Embedded Assessments** |
| Unit 1: The Challenge of HeroismC:\Users\aharrington\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\AAAWE9GI\image-hero-cartoon[1].jpg | Poetry, songs, essays, news articles, myths, film clips, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry | * Writing a Narrative Essay
* Visualizing an Event in Jonas's Journey (Expository – Literary Analysis)
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| Unit 2: Real-Life Challenges | Poetry, Informational texts: articles, letters, editorials | * Writing about the Media (Expository- Problem/Solution)
* Writing a Persuasive Essay (Argumentative)
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| Unit 4: Voices and Challenges | Literature Circle Novels (Holocaust fiction and nonfiction), Children’s literature, film clips, informational texts | * Presenting Voices of the Holocaust (Expository – Literary Analysis)
* Taking Action About an Issue (Argumentative)
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| Unit 5: The Challenge of Comedy | Film clips, short stories, & excerpts from Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* | * Writing an Analysis of a Humorous Text (Expository – Literary Analysis)
* Performing a Comic Scene
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**Homework and Classwork:**

**![C:\Users\aharrington\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\VR5Y1UON\oh_no_smiley[1].png]()** Students often feel stuck when they miss class or forget their homework.This year students, parents, and guardians will be able to access our daily agendas for in-class work and a list of homework assignments through our class website. Please visit our class calendar: <http://harringtonela.weebly.com/calendar.html> .

**Parent/Guardian Homework:**

Please send me an **email** saying you have seen the syllabus and visited the calendar. Include the best email address and phone number for contact. No computer; no worries. Please send in a **note** with the best way to reach you. We will work together to get your child access to computers at local libraries and community centers.

**![C:\Users\aharrington\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\S3WZHZSW\teacher-report-card[1].png]()Grading Policy:**

Our grading policy is a simple one. Students are assessed primarily in four areas:

1. Springboard Text (25%)

2. Homework (15%)

3. Writing assignments,

 projects, presentations (20%)

4. Tests and Quizzes (15%)

5. Independent reading

 assignments (15%)

6. Participation (10%)

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| **C:\Users\aharrington\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\VR5Y1UON\5417788017_f1f6aa654f_z[1].jpgMaterials required in class daily**:Pencil/pen pouch (with pens and pencils!)3 different color highlightersFolder with lined paper and pocketsNotebook (one subject to be used just in this class)\*\*\*\*If you are so inclined, feel free to donate extra materials for our students in need. I will distribute them discreetly. \*\*\*\*If you have any issue getting these supplies, please have your child let me know.**Needed Often**Glue Stick Sticky notes (large enough to write notes)Flash Drive (This really helps when you work on projects or process writing outside of school.)**Nice to have, but not required:** The following items will be needed throughout the school year, but do not need to be brought to class every day *Art supplies (colored pencils, markers, etc.)* |