

English Language Arts
8th Grade
Syllabus
2020-2021

Texts:

The Language of Literature – McDougal Littell – Houghton Mifflin

Writing and Grammar, Grade Eight – Prentice Hall

*The Witch of Blackbird Pond** – Elizabeth George Speare

*Milkweed** – Jerry Spinelli

*You will need these two novels, and I prefer that you buy the books because I will be encouraging you to make marks in them as we read, however, if that is not possible, library books will suffice.

Instructor: Mrs. Christina Horton –email – cmhorton@rhprep.org

Objectives

To give you, the student, the opportunity to:

- become proficient at writing critical essays about literature and other assigned topics.
- understand how, and be able to analyze and commentate critically on literary works.
- become proficient at understanding grammar usage/conventions within the context of literature.
- learn to **LOVE** to read!

Grading Scale/Weighting

90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, 59 and below = F

Essays/Tests/Quizzes/Projects – 80%; AR Reading – 20%

In Class

Class time will be divided between reading and exploring texts; studying grammar, and learning the fundamentals of writing through the use of the Jane Schaffer Expository Essay method.

Homework

During this time of distance learning, except for AR reading, there will not be homework, unless you fall behind in your classwork. 15% of your grade will be based on your performance in AR. 20 points =C; 30 points=B; 35 points=A. Students who reach 50 points in a quarter will no longer be required to get a parent signature on their reading log. **Please note: I do not give extra credit.**

Rule of Conduct

I only have one, and that is that respect for your fellow students and the teacher will be shown at all times.



2020-21 8th Grade ELA Required Books

Each student will be required to obtain the following books for this class:

Title/Author	Purchase through RHP	Link to purchase through Amazon
<i>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</i> by Elizabeth George Speare	\$9.00	\$6.99
<i>Milkweed</i> by Jerry Spinelli	\$9.00	\$7.99

If you would like to purchase your books from Rio Hondo Prep, circle the titles required and return this form with payment to the school office. Please note that Amazon prices may change.