

Eighth Grade Literature and Composition

2021-2022 COURSE SYLLABUS

Ms. Call

Room Number – #525 pcall@pointeschools.org

Course Description

In Eighth Grade Literature and Composition, students continue to develop an appreciation of written and spoken language. As readers, eighth graders experience more sophisticated works of literature for study and analysis in the classroom. Students will also review all of the parts of speech and enhance vocabulary words. They will use media and technology for expressive, informational, argumentative, critical, and literary purposes. Students will use the stages of the writing process to write clear, coherent drafts and compositions throughout the school year. Students will be challenged to develop advanced skills in reading, composition, oral communication and logical argument. The grammatical, mechanical, and syntactical skills of language are taught within the meaningful context of the writing process. Extensive in class reading, individual and group research projects, challenging class discussions, and a variety of writing experiences will be required.

Supplies

An important part of middle school is developing effective organizational strategies and habits. The following tools are recommended to help keep you organized:

- 1 inch (one) three-ring binder
- Pens or Pencils

Cell Phones and Technology

During class, cell phones or other personal devices must be silent and in the student's backpack. Cell phones & devices may not be used in class without teacher permission. First occurrence: warning. Second occurrence: device will be placed in the cell phone/technology area on the teacher's desk and can be picked up at the end of the period and parents will be contacted. Third occurrence: device will be turned into the 4A or front office and must be picked up at the end of the day.

Discussion Decorum

Throughout this course, we will be discussing and viewing some very controversial issues. It is expected that students respectfully agree and disagree with one another. North Pointe does not tolerate any personal attacks or rude comments between any students. Any breach of this decorum will result in loss of credit for the assignment that day and potentially administrative action.

Units of Study

- "How Do We Tell Right From Wrong?" by Anne-Marie Reidy
- "Button, Button" by Richard Matheson
- "Lamp to the Slaughter" by Roald Dahl
- "Lather and Nothing Else" by Hernando Tellez
- "Ruthless" by William DeMille
- "Brown Girl Dreaming" by Jacqueline Woodson

Honors (Additional)

- "Thank You, M'am" by Langston Hughes
- "After Twenty Years" by O. Henry
- "Can We Teach Robots Ethics?" by BBC News

Semester Grading

Per North Pointe policy, semester grades will be weighted as follows:

Semester 1: First quarter - 40%, Second quarter - 40%, Semester 1 Final Exam – 20%

Semester 2: Third quarter – 40%, Fourth quarter – 40%, Semester 2 Final Exam - 20%

Late Work

Assignments are due in class, and must be complete and legible. This means that even if you turn in your assignment 5 minutes after I have collected the class work, yours is considered late. This also means that if your work is incomplete or not readable, it will not be accepted. Late assignments are reduced 10% per day. If a week passes, the assignment will not be accepted and will be graded as a 0.

Parent Communication

Parents may contact me using the contact information listed at the top of this syllabus. Email is the best mode of contact. If students are having behavior problems or academic issues, I will contact parents to inform them of the problem and enlist their aid in solving it. If the issue remains unsolved, administration will take over to resolve it.

Grading

Each student will receive a letter grade upon completion of this course. All points, regardless of category (i.e.: exams, classwork, participation), will be weighted equally to the calculation of the course grade with the only exception of the Semester Final Exam worth 20% of the total grade. Students and parents can access course grades using the Online Academic Resource via the Student Grades link:

The North Pointe Prep handbook sets our grading scale as follows:

College Prep A= 90% < B= 89-80% C= 79-70% D= 69-60% F= 59% >

Honors Class A = 90% < B = 89-80% C = 79-68% D = 67-59% F = 58% >

North Pointe does not accept course credit from other high school or online institutions for currently enrolled students.

Class Expectations

BE RESPECTFUL

BE PREPARED

DO YOUR BEST

Literature and Composition Eighth Grade Syllabus Signature Form

Please carefully review my syllabus and fill out the form below. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you or your student

might have. You may also write your questions in the space provided below.

Please note that this is a critical thinking and discussion course. As such, there may be instances when the topics that are studied may contain mature and possibly controversial subject matter. Please understand that any mature material will be handled in an adult, respectful fashion.

Parents and Student: signing below serves as acknowledgement of my syllabus, as well as the works that are to be studied in this course.

I have read and understand the information provided in the syllabus.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____ Phone
number: _____

Comments, Questions, Concerns