

Brandywine Heights Middle School
200 West Weis Street, Topton, PA

Course Syllabus for Eighth Grade Reading
2009-2010

Overview:

This year should be quite exciting for your child. Instruction and practice will be provided in the following areas: vocabulary development, literary elements, figurative language, and critical reading skills. Various literary genres will be covered. The students will have time set aside in almost every class period to read novels of their choice. This is done to encourage and develop independent reading skills. It also gives them the opportunity to explore their own interests. The goal in eighth grade reading is to develop life-long readers.

Textbook: Purple level of the Heath Literature Series. D.C. Heath and Company. 1995.
The Westing Game, The Contender, The Giver.

Outline of Content:

First Quarter

Topics: Various literary elements: theme, plot, setting, conflict, hyperbole, personification, point of view, similes, metaphors, irony, idiom, onomatopoeia, alliteration. Make inferences and analyze facts.

Novel Study: The Contender (This may extend into the second quarter)

Projects and comprehension tests.

Second Quarter

Topics: Students will continue to review and go over literary elements and figurative languages that are covered in selected readings and genres in literature.

Novel Study: The Giver (This may extend into the third quarter)

Projects, comprehension tests, projects, and mid-term exam

Third Quarter

Topics: Students will continue to review and go over literary elements and figurative languages that are covered in selected readings and genres in literature.

Novel Study: The Westing Game (This may extend into the fourth quarter)

Projects and comprehension tests

Fourth Quarter

Topics: Students will continue to review and go over literary elements and figurative languages that are covered in selected readings and genres in literature.

Projects, comprehension tests, and final exam

Tests: Tests cover vocabulary, multiple choice questions, and short answer/essay questions. There will also be a short reading at the end of the test with 3-7 questions that cover assessment anchors. These tests will be based on the selections the students have read in the literature series. PSSA **prep** tests will be given throughout the year. Students will also have various forms of assessment throughout novel studies. They include pop quizzes, tests, and homework questions.

Projects: Novel projects, newspaper project, visual representation of settings, various papers, etc.