

Welcome to Language Arts on Team 8-3



Meg Burns, Instructor
2009-2010 School Year
meg.burns@foresthills.edu

Objectives:

Students will improve their reading comprehension and fundamental writing skills to prepare them for the rigors of high school.

General Overview of Course:

Reading: Students will read self selected books that meet standards based criteria, as well as teacher selected books that will be instructed as a group.

These works will be read, analyzed, and discussed; then a project assignment or test will be given to check comprehension. Other areas of emphasis will be Greek and Latin root words, vocabulary and etymology, as well as note taking and formation of graphic organizers based on the text.

Writing: Students will be graded on spelling and grammar as well as word usage in writing both expository and narrative text. Transition words will be instructed and utilized by students to help with organization of thoughts. Other areas of emphasis will include pre-writing strategies, sentence diagramming, grammar instruction as well as using direct quotes to support a thesis.

Both: Problem solving and logic must be utilized by students to achieve the Language Arts objectives in 8th grade, and these skills will be practiced in class.

Sample Units:

- Graphic organizers/fantasy books -Poetry/ *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- Literature elements/Scary short stories -Demo speech/'How to. . .' books
- Media/bias and perspective/Biographies -Symbols/themes/ *Night*

NOTE: Units may change at Mrs. Burns' discretion according to the standards.

Note to Parents:

Please monitor your student's choice of self-selected books; what may be appropriate for some 8th graders may not be best for your student—please talk to them about what they are reading. Also—many parents find it rewarding to read the two 'class' books along with their students (*To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Night*). It may provide for interesting discussions with those teens!

Homework Policy:

Students must make up all homework within a week of when it is due for partial credit, in keeping with school policy. Projects will be accepted until the end of the quarter, but will drop a grade for each day they are late (the lowest grade possible is a D if project is turned in. . .) Please check with Mrs. Burns for specifics.

Individual Help:

After school help is available most days with a prior approval from Mrs. Burns. Please give 24 hours notice for help with homework, projects, or preparation for tests.

And Remember: Communication is Key!

Please email (meg.burns@foresthills.edu) or call (474-5407—ask for team 8-3 office—DON'T USE INDIVIDUAL VOICEMAIL PLEASE!) if any questions or concerns arise for you or your student. . .I can't help you if I don't know you need it!



