

# Jasper Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Syllabus

## Course Description:

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA course is designed to improve the students' reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing skills. The ultimate goal is to prepare students for success in high school. All students will read and write intensively throughout this course. We will be working with a variety of complex literary and non-fiction texts with a heavy focus on Southern literature.

## Texts:

- Georgia Collections by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Close Reader workbook by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Performance Assessment workbook by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Supplemental Reading Passages, Novels, Selected Short Stories, and Poems

## Class Goals:

- Citing explicit textual evidence in strong support of text analysis
- Determining and analyzing the development of the theme or central idea of a text
- Analyzing both literary and informational texts
- Understanding an author's use of words, phrases, and shades of meaning in a text
- Analyzing and comparing/contrasting the structure of a text
- Analyzing how an author's point of view in a text impacts the development of the text and the reader
- Evaluating the advantages, disadvantages, differences in using different mediums to present information
- Evaluating an argument to determine the strength and relevance of the reasoning
- Writing effective summaries, arguments that use relevant evidence to support a claim, informational essays examining a topic, and descriptive well-structured narratives
- Engaging in effective collaborative discussions by building on other's ideas and clearly expressing personal opinions

## Grading Policy:

Summative Assessments (40%): tests, projects, writing assignments

Formative Assessments (60%): daily assignments

All work is expected on the due date. Late work will be accepted up to five (5) days after the date and will be given an automatic 10-point penalty. After five days, late work will NOT be accepted. No exceptions!

All students receive a 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Card at the beginning of each semester. You are responsible for holding onto this card. This allows you the option of redoing five (5) daily assignments in order to earn a better grade. It also allows you to drop one (1) test or project grade. Finally, you may rewrite two (2) writing assignments. It is my belief that students achieve greater understanding by redoing assignments rather than completing random extra credit work. Therefore, I do NOT give extra credit. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Card allows you to improve your grades throughout the semester.

For absent students, all summative assessments must be made up either before or after school in the time frame given in the Jasper Middle School Handbook.

## Class Expectations:

- Accept responsibility for your education! *Next year, everything you do counts.* This is the year to pull it all together.
  - Be on time, check the board, and bring required materials
  - Ask for help
  - Accept the mistakes you make and the consequences, then do better
  - Study and do the work
  - Respect yourself, your classmates, and the teacher

If you have any questions or concerns now or throughout the year, please email me at [leighandipuma@pickenscountyschools.org](mailto:leighandipuma@pickenscountyschools.org) or call the school 706-253-1760. Additionally, please bookmark my website <http://dipumajms.weebly.com/>. This is an excellent source of information for both students and parents.

Please sign and return this sheet confirming that you received and read the 2017 ELA Syllabus.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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