

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

Mr. Jarod Pierce

## Syllabus

Planning Period: 12:44p.m-1:38p.m

School Phone: 251-679-9405

Teacher's Email: jpierce@saralandboe.org

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**Course Description:** Welcome to Mr. Pierce's Language Arts class. This year the class will be exploring a variety of short stories and literature that will challenge students to analyze symbolism, theme, and aspects of morality. These are just samples of the literary elements we will be discussing. We will also explore in-depth character analysis, plot diagramming, grammar, writing styles, and detailed MLA formatting. I promise to enlighten students through lessons in a way they have never seen before. I am offering a full plate this year, but together with your cooperation we will tackle these topics with ease.

**Course Goal:** To gain an understanding of critical thinking and analytical skills in regards to reading and writing.

### Course Objectives:

1. Students will learn how to analyze, evaluate, and argue in their writing.
2. Students will learn proper MLA formatting and citing of texts.
3. Students will strengthen grammar and mechanics.
4. Students will examine examples of American and World literature.

### Required Materials:

- 2 inch three-ring binder
- Spiral notebook or composition book
- Blue or black ink pen / Color pencils
- Good Attitude

**Classroom Procedures:** All required materials must be brought to every class. Failure to bring required material may be reflected upon your participation grade. Some texts books will not be required until later on during the semester, but students must always have pen and paper at every class meeting.

### Classroom Behavior:

- All students must enter quietly to their assigned seats and immediately begin the bell work written on the board.
- All students must raise their hand before speaking or getting up from their seat, unless the teacher has previously given them permission.
- Students are to respect the teacher as well as any other students. The class follows the: “Due unto others as you wish them to do unto you” rule.
- Any student found violating classroom rules will be given a warning. Any further violations will Thursday detention.
- A warning to students: Some student behavior may qualify for immediate detention.
- Remember to **respect others, yourself, and your school.**

**Attendance/Late Policy:** The teacher will take roll at the beginning of every class. Tardiness is frowned upon and will lead to absences. Afterwards, every tardy may earn the student detention. It will be entirely the teacher’s discretion. If a student is late, please avoid as little disruption as possible and see the teacher after class. Late arrivals and absence may be excused with a doctor’s note or other understandable reason.

**Assignments and Homework/Make-up Work:** All homework will be due before class begins on its deadline. All assignments must be properly headed and formatted according to MLA standards, which will be discussed this semester. All hand-written work must be done in blue or black ink and all assigned papers, reports, or essays must be typed in Times New Roman, 12 font, and double-spaced. Any late assignments will be given half-credit. Any student who is absent is responsible for turning in any make-up assignments. The student will have **1** extra day to turn in make-up work after returning to class.

**Plagiarism:** There is a zero tolerance for plagiarism in or outside of the classroom. Any student suspected of plagiarism will be required to attend in a conference with the teacher and parent. The student may receive a failing grade or decide to redo the assignment for half credit.

### Grading: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Standards Based Assessment(Tests) | 60% |
| Classwork/Quizzes                 | 20% |
| Writing                           | 20% |

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**Please have this slip signed by the student and parent/guardian and return by next week. The signatures inform the teacher that both students and parent/guardian have read the syllabus.**

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

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

