

## **Middle School Course Outline Sixth Grade**

### **Subject: English**



#### **Introduction:**

Sixth grade English is a literature-based course, which explores different genres and forms of literature. Students receive instruction in grammar and spelling through mini-lessons, but the majority of their practice in these areas is integrated into their reading of literature, writing about literature, and writing creatively. The class, which meets for six 45-minute periods during the six-day cycle, provides an environment where each student has the opportunity to grow as a confident, critical, and independent thinker.

#### **Content:**

##### **Reading:**

Students begin to solidify their ability to comprehend both simple and more complex texts through literary analysis. They develop a working knowledge of literary terms. Students take leadership for in-class discussions, and run their own literature circles throughout the year.

##### **Writing:**

Students apply their developing analytical skills in the completion of critical writing assignments. They are introduced to the five paragraph persuasive essay. Students also complete creative writing assignments and reader response journal entries based on literature that was read in class. Basic principles of English grammar and additional spelling strategies are practiced.

#### **Materials:**

*The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls, *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson, *The BFG* and *Boy* by Roald Dahl, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor, *To Be a Slave* by Julius Lester, "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" by Washington Irving, assorted poems including: "The Walrus and the Carpenter" by Lewis Carroll, "The Naming of Cats" by T.S. Elliot comprise the list of required reading material.

#### **Evaluation:**

Formal and informal assessment tools include teacher observation, student writings and journal entries, vocabulary and comprehension quizzes.

## **Middle School Course Outline Seventh Grade**

### **Subject: English**

#### **Introduction:**

Seventh grade English is based upon an in-depth examination of modern American literature. As a backdrop for this study, the students will first explore the Victorian period and its literature. The course transitions into the modern period by studying and reading Mark Twain. Seventh Grade English is an integrated, literature-based course that analyzes a variety of modern literature from various authors and genres. The course is constructed around the literature covered and the activity of reading is imperative for gaining the maximum benefit from the class. The class, which meets for six 45-minute periods during the six-day cycle, provides an environment where each student has the opportunity to grow as a confident, critical, and independent thinker.

#### **Content:**

##### **Reading:**

Students develop a working knowledge of the literary styles, techniques and themes of various authors of modern American literature. They participate in discussions and debates as they examine selected literary works.

##### **Writing:**

Students develop proper writing technique by completing expository and creative writing assignments. They gain a deeper understanding of English grammar in order to become more affective users of the English language. A richer and more colorful vocabulary is also developed.

#### **Materials:**

Various short stories, essays, poems and the following novels/plays: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck; *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry; *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain; *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller; *To Build a Fire and Other Short Stories* by Jack London; *House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros comprise the list of required reading material.

#### **Evaluation:**

Formal and informal assessment tools include teacher observation, student writings, vocabulary and comprehension quizzes.

## **Middle School Course Outline Eighth Grade**

### **Subject: English**

#### **Introduction:**

Eighth grade English is an integrated, literature-based course which explores a variety of genres from a variety of cultures. Novels, plays, poems, and short stories from Africa, Asia, South America, North America and Europe are covered. The course is constructed around the literature covered and the activity of reading is imperative for gaining the maximum benefit from the class. Students polish both grammar and writing skills, while they read and analyze on an advanced level. The class, which meets for six 45-minute periods during the six-day cycle, provides an environment where each student has the opportunity to grow as a confident, critical, and independent thinker.

#### **Content:**

##### **Reading:**

Students develop a working knowledge of the literary styles, techniques and themes of various authors. They participate in discussions and debates as they examine selected literary works. Special attention is paid to in-text vocabulary words and the intricacies of English grammar.

##### **Writing:**

Students develop proper writing technique by completing expository and creative writing assignments. They gain a deeper understanding of English grammar in order to become more affective users of the English language. A richer and more colorful vocabulary is also developed.

#### **Materials:**

Various short stories, essays, poems and the following novels/plays: *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare; *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare; *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding; *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee; *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger; *Animal Farm* by George Orwell; *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe; *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury; *Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway comprise the list of required reading.

#### **Evaluation:**

Formal and informal assessment tools include teacher observation, student writings, vocabulary and comprehension quizzes.