



## **Middle School Course Outline**

### **Subject: English**

## **Sixth Grade**

### **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 provides an environment where each student has the opportunity to grow as a confident, critical, and independent thinker. There is an emphasis on public speaking.

### **Content:**

#### **Reading:**

Students begin to solidify their ability to comprehend both simple and more complex texts through literary analysis. They also develop a working knowledge of literary terms and literary devices. Students have the opportunity to develop their ideas and show leadership through in-class discussions.

#### **Writing:**

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

### **Materials:**

Students use online resources like Word Voyage for word study skills. Leveled informational texts come from Newsela.com, Teaching Tolerance, and other reputable sources. Short stories and novels from the canon as well as emerging authors are explored.

### **Evaluation:**

Formal and informal assessment tools include teacher observation, student writings and journal entries, vocabulary and comprehension quizzes. Collaborative and creative short-term and long-term projects allow students to develop multiple skills while learning the importance of time management, communication skills and group dynamics.

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

### **Subject: English**

#### **Introduction:**

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 40-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. There is an emphasis on public speaking.

#### **Content:**

##### **Reading:**

Students develop a working knowledge of the literary styles, techniques and themes of various authors of modern literature. They participate in discussions and debates as they examine selected literary works. There is also an emphasis on poetry in seventh grade.

##### **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 effective users of the English language. A richer and more colorful vocabulary is also developed. Students build on the 5-paragraph essay by focusing on strong transitions, sentence variety and effective support.

#### **Materials:**

Students use online resources like Word Voyage for word study skills. Leveled informational texts come from Newsela.com, Teaching Tolerance, and other reputable sources. Short stories and novels from the canon as well as emerging authors are explored.

#### **Evaluation:**

Formal and informal assessment tools include teacher observation, student writings and journal entries, vocabulary and comprehension quizzes. Collaborative and creative short-term and long-term projects allow students to develop multiple skills while learning the importance of time management, communication skills and group dynamics.

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

### **Subject: English**

#### **Introduction:**

Eighth grade English is an integrated, literature-based course which explores a variety of genres. 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 40-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. Students explore the use of propaganda in real-world and fictional situations with novels like Ji-Li Jiang's *Red Scarf Girl*.

##### **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 effective users of the English language. Students also develop a richer and more colorful vocabulary. Students build on the 5-paragraph essay by focusing on writing mechanics while finding their own voice. There is a focus on persuasive writing and speaking skills.

#### **Materials:**

Students use online resources like Word Voyage for word study skills. Leveled informational texts come from Newsela.com, Teaching Tolerance, and other reputable sources. Short stories and novels from the canon as well as emerging authors are explored.

#### **Evaluation:**

Formal and informal assessment tools include teacher observation, student writings and journal entries, vocabulary and comprehension quizzes. Collaborative and creative short-term and long-term projects allow students to develop multiple skills while learning the importance of time management, communication skills and group dynamics.