

PETERS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

CORE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

LITERATURE FOUNDATIONS

EIGHTH GRADE

For each of the sections that follow, students may be required to understand, apply, analyze, evaluate or create the particular concepts being taught.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This novel-based course meets every day for twelve weeks to develop and hone reading comprehension, vocabulary, and analysis skills via a selection of age-appropriate science fiction, fantasy, and nonfiction novels.

STUDY SKILLS

- create flashcards for vocabulary terms
- student-generated graphic organizers for writing prompts
- model and facilitate appropriate note-taking techniques
- demonstrate their consistent use of an assignment book
- demonstrate different study approaches to test preparation

MAJOR UNIT THEMES:

1. Elements of Literature

- locate examples of direct and indirect characterization
- apply elements of literature to various projects
- identify and analyze elements of literature
- identify both internal and external conflict and locate examples within the text
- analyze the author's style and use of cliffhangers
- define the types of genre and sub genre, as well as their characteristics
- analyze the author's style and use of cliffhangers
- identify both internal and external conflict and locate examples within the text
- define and identify verbal and situational irony
- identify elements of genre within the text
- locate examples of imagery in the text and create a sensory details chart

2. Vocabulary

- use context clues to define or infer meaning
- identify synonyms and antonyms of vocabulary terms
- demonstrate expanded vocabulary
- apply key vocabulary to cloze passages
- conjugate vocabulary words into parts of speech
- analyze figurative language within the novels

3. Comprehension and Analysis

- infer meaning through role-playing activities and discussion
- apply reading strategies to comprehend the novels
- compare/contrast the main characters at the beginning and end of the novel.
- answer comprehension questions on each chapter of the novel
- sequence the events from the novel
- identify cause and effect relationships
- create a plot chart to organize the plot of each story
- describe problem/solution relationships within the novel and the effects the outcome(s) have on the main character

MATERIALS:

- *Incarceron* by Catherine Fisher
- *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom
- *Tuesdays with Morrie* movie

Revised September 2014