

Language Arts 11: Mystery Literature

Teacher: Mr. Helfman

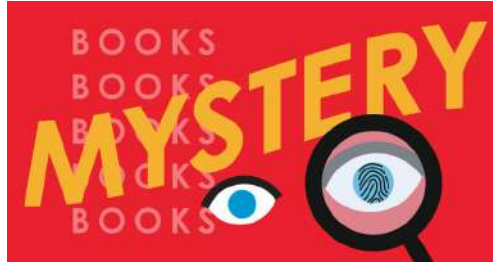
Room: 505

Length: 1 Year (2 Semesters) 1 credit

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Website: Schoology



Language Arts This Year:

This year you will become a detective in language arts! We will explore what makes mysteries so popular by examining a range of mystery stories. This will include fictional short detective stories, mysteries throughout history, and novels. Throughout the year, you will become an expert sleuth by interpreting clues, determine the motivation of criminals, and evaluate whether the outcomes of a mystery are fair.

Class Breakdown:

Reading will be required in class and outside of class. Readings will be provided in a hard copy. Some readings will be digital and posted in Schoology.

Close Reading:

Close reading is a time to build technical reading skills, like identifying main ideas, themes and analyzing how authors use techniques to communicate these ideas. Students will write main idea jots and short responses about what they read, along with engaging in discourse daily.

Reading will be required in class and outside of class. Readings will be provided in a hard copy. Some readings will be digital and posted in Schoology.

Novel Study:

A novel study is a time for us to read the same text as a class and have a shared experience of reading. Each text has specific skills and content that the class will analyze together. Every week, students will engage in purposeful note-taking and meaningful discussions that aim to deepen our understanding of the text and interconnecting themes.

Writing:

Students will engage in writing on a daily basis, whether that be “Do Nows”, “short answer responses” or an in-class essay. This year, we will develop writing skills and techniques across creative, narrative, literary analysis and argumentative genres of writing.

Daily Discourse:

Daily discourse is a time for students to build academic skills, such as verbal communication and active listening. Students will synthesize information by exploring main ideas and thematic connection as the class moves through the novel and our close reading texts. Students will also learn how to prepare and engage in Socratic seminars.

Materials for Class:

1. Binder with dividers
2. Notebook or spiral
3. Pencil or pencil
4. Chromebook (charged), Chromebook charger
5. Required text for reading*

Absences and Make-up Work Policy:

Students will be responsible for independently getting the work that was missed due to absence. The assignment will be in the filing cabinet and in Schoology. Students are responsible for completing the missing work. Until the assignment is turned in, the grade will be a 0 in the gradebook. All late work is due by the end of the quarter. Check in with Mr. Helfman if there are questions or need to come to a solution about a due date.

Grading Policy:

Classwork (10%): This is the work done in class each day or what needs to be prepared for the following class.

Formative Assessments (25%): These are quizzes and check-ins during each unit to see your understanding of the content. Some examples are reading quizzes and short answer responses.

Mastery Assessments (65%): This is the opportunity to prove what you have learned in each unit. These include essays, presentations

Grade Percentage		
100%-90%	A	The student fully understands the content, and the course objectives have not only been mastered but exceeded, and the student has turned in all required assignments.
89%-80%	B	The student understands and has mastered the content and course objectives and has turned in all or the majority of the required assignments.
79%-70%	C	The student understands and has mastered most of the course content and course objectives and has turned in the majority of assignments but not all.
69%-60%	D	The student has mastered minimal course content and objectives and is missing a significant number of required assignments.
59%-0%	F	The student has not yet mastered the course content and objectives to pass this course and is missing a significant number of required assignments. An F does not earn credit.

WHAT WE WILL LEARN THIS YEAR:

Quarter 1: Elements of Fiction and mysteries, and discussions skills.
Quarter 2: Literature Analysis and discussion skills.
Quarter 3: Narrative reading, writing, and discussions. During this time, juniors will have state testing.
Quarter 4: Argumentative reading, writing, discussions, and presentation
The stories we will read this year will be read as a class, individually, and in literature circles. Additional readings can be included and some we may not get to depending on timing. Please reach out with questions, concerns, or more information. Some of the readings will be... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The Murders in the Rue Morgue</u>- Edgar Allan Poe • <u>The Red-Headed League</u>- Edgar Allan Poe • <u>One of Us Is Lying</u>- Karen McManus • <u>Allegedly</u>-Tiffany D. Jackson

Classroom Expectations

1. Rise to your highest self	Work on demonstrating the best version of you. Push your boundaries academically and as your authentic self.
2. Know that you are valued	Every person has an important role in our class. We will create an environment of dignity for themselves and others.
3. Protect our learning at all costs	Create a classroom of respect and safety.

P.O.W.E.R. (Schoolwide expectations)

P: Students need to be **prepared** with materials and on time to class to be **punctual**

O: Students will use **organizational** skills

W: Students will **write** to demonstrate learning and process information

E: Students will **engage** with class and schoolwide community

R: Students and staff will **respect**

Academic Honesty & Integrity:

Your work must be your own. If work is plagiarized, it will not count and a 0 will be entered as the grade. There are no remake opportunities for academic dishonesty. This includes copy and pasting information from the internet, using AI, or copying someone else's work as your own.

Technology Policy:

At the beginning of class, materials will be organized to prepare for a successful class. This means putting technology away so it cannot be used unless permission is given by Mr. Helfman. Being able to regulate and manage technology is important skill. Research shows the harmful impact of what using technology frequently can do to youth.

If you do need to charge a computer or phone, there is a special location that you will need to check in with Mr. Helfman about. The phone will remain separate and off limits during class.

- Phones and Earbuds/Headphones** will be stored away and silent during class
- Computer & Charger** will be brought to class and fully charged each day. Computers will remain in your backpacks

If a phone, earbuds, or computer are out during class, a reminder will be given to put it away. If they remain out, Mr. Helfman will hold onto it and return the technology at the end of the period. If a student is struggling with meeting these expectations, parents/guardians and further consequences will follow. The goal

Food and Beverage Policy:

Food is to be kept away during class. Food will not be eaten during class. In case there is a situation where you need to eat, please check in with Mr. Helfman. This will help keep the classroom clean and avoid creatures like mice and bugs from joining our class.

Beverages are ok to have in class that have a lid.

Parent/Guardian: *I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the course syllabus and expectations for L.A. 11: Mystery Literature.*

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. If you feel comfortable sharing, please include the best method to contact you for class updates and updates on your student!

Preferred Method of Contact (please circle one)

Phone Calls Text Messages Emails

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian printed name: _____ Date: _____

Student: *I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the course syllabus and expectations for L.A. 11: Mystery Literature.* In addition, I understand that ultimately I am in charge of my own learning and education, and therefore will put great effort toward being the most responsible and successful student I can be.

Please get your syllabus signed and returned to Mr. Helfman.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Student’s printed name: _____ Date: _____