
PETERS TOWNSHIP MIDDLE SCHOOL

COURSE SYLLABUS: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Course Information	Teacher Information
<u>Course Length:</u> Full Year <u>Class Location:</u> B204 <u>Teacher Website:</u> http://www.ptsd.k12.pa.us/brown.aspx	<u>Name:</u> Renee Brown <u>Phone:</u> 724.941.2688 <u>Email:</u> brownr@pt-sd.org

Course Overview and Essential Skills

In eighth grade language arts, students will scaffold on essential elements of writing, research, and literary analysis introduced in seventh grade. Students will work with all genres, including: nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and drama. Students will develop key writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills necessary to function as successful ninth graders.

Course Textbook, Supplemental Resources and Required Materials

Books read in part or in full:

- *The Best of Poe: The Tell-Tale Heart, The Raven, The Cask of Amontillado, and 30 Others* (2006) ISBN# 9781580493871
- *Great Stories of Horror and Suspense* (2008) ISBN# 7981603890670
- *Great American Poems* (2008) ISBN# 7981603890717
- *The Twelfth Night* (2007) ISBN# 9781580492201
- *The Taming of the Shrew* (2007) ISBN# 9789580495929
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2005) ISBN# 97881580495882
- *The Cage* (1986) ISBN# 100027818306
- *Unbroken* (2014) ISBN# 9780385742511
- *Night* (2006) ISBN# 139780374500016
- *Daniel's Story* (1993) ISBN# 139780590465885

Additional Print Texts *that may be used if time allows*:

- Selected poems from Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, Dylan Thomas, T. S. Eliot, Alfred Tennyson, and others
- "Cruelty in the Olympics" (nonfiction article by Samantha Retrosi, 2014)
- "The Art of Failure" (nonfiction unit created by The University of Pittsburgh's Institute for Learning)
- "10,000 Hour Rule" (nonfiction article by Malcolm Gladwell, 2014)
- "Everyone Has an Accent" (nonfiction article by Walt Wolfram, 2000)
- "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson
- *Flares of Memory* (excerpts) edited by Anita Brostoff
- *After Long Silence* (excerpt) by Helen Fremont
- "Death of my Father" and "Moshe the Madman" from *Legends of our Time* by Elie Wiesel

Video Clips:

- *Toyland* (2007 short film; rated TV-PG)
- *Paperclips* (2004 documentary; rated G)

- *Nicky's Family* (2011 docudrama)
- Approved Suspense Clips: *Finding Nemo*, *Lion King*, *Ice Age II: The Meltdown*, *Bourne Ultimatum*, *Signs*, *The Sixth Sense*, *I am Legend*, *The Day After Tomorrow*, *What Lies Beneath*, *Jurassic Park*; *Sponge Bob "Squeaky Boots"* (Season 1, episode 8, 1999)
- *She's the Man* (2006)
- *The Taming of the Shrew* (1967, director Zeffirelli)
- *Ten Things I Hate About You* (clips only)
- *Do You Speak American?* (Travel Channel documentary)
- John Green's "Crash Course #38" WWII introduction

Course Outline of Material Covered:

Unit or Topic	Course Activities/Resources	Timeframe
Unit of study or major topic as outlined in curriculum	Projects, papers, quizzes, labs, homework, class work, movies used, etc	May indicate the month or amount of time for unit
Accelerated Reader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Reading • AR digital tests 	All year
Vocabulary (tier II and III)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary HW, quizzes, and tests 	All year
Grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punctuation, usage, and improved style • IXL digital software 	Embedded in units throughout the year
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay writing • Analyze nonfiction articles • HW, quizzes, and test 	4-5 weeks
Suspense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze elements of suspense in multiple media • Create short story with elements of suspense • Short stories by Poe and other authors • HW, quizzes, and test • Please visit the Suspense Clip movie listing above and on the PTMS website 	3-5 weeks
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of the unique elements of the English language • Essay writing • HW, quizzes, and test • "Everyone Has an Accent" • "Do you Speak American" short documentary 	3-4 weeks
Poetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze elements of poetic style in various poems (e.g. theme, mood, devices, etc.) • Create original poems with multimedia project • HW, quizzes, test 	4-5 weeks
Shakespearean Comedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze elements of Shakespearean language and comedy • Examine the text through various media • Dramatization of the text • Analytic writing • HW, quizzes, and test • <i>She's the Man</i>; clips from <i>Ten Things I Hate about You</i>; and <i>Taming of the Shrew</i> (1967) 	4-5 weeks
Holocaust and WWII Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze excerpts from several historically accurate texts • Read and analyze one full book on this topic 	4-6 weeks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Unbroken, Night, and The Cage</i> • Writing assignments • Class discussion, HW, quizzes, test • <i>Paperclips, Toyland, and/or Nicky's Family</i> 	
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research a topic related to the WWII era • Create and deliver multimedia presentation • HW, quizzes 	4-5 weeks

****Depending on the needs of the class or changes in the school year, the course outline is subject to change.***

Teacher Grading Policy:

- Grades for the course will be calculated by total points.
- Late work will automatically receive zero credit.
- Long term assignments or projects may be turned in one day late for half credit before grading.
- Cheating and plagiarism are disciplinary infractions and result in a loss of credit as explained in the student handbook.

Classroom Procedures and Expectations:

- Be on time: You are expected to be in your seat and completing the warmup activities when the bell rings.
- Be prepared: You need to bring all of your materials with you to class every day.
- Be respectful: Do not touch anything unless it belongs to you. Show respect for all classmates and school personnel (including substitutes).
- Be responsible: Students are responsible for making all arrangements with the teacher regarding absences and missed assessments. Students are expected to self-advocate.
- All school rules apply in class and will be enforced. This includes the policy for late work due to student absences.

“Other”: Possible ways in which students can receive extra help are listed below:

- Students should make arrangements with teachers to receive extra help or to make up work.
- Writing Lab is available to all students for help with writing assignments for any class. It is in B204 during period 11. Ask your language arts teacher for a pass.
- Students should take advantage of any optional assignments if and when they are offered.
- Hot Shots Program: Students can sign up for this after-school program held in the PTMS library from 3:00 – 4:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students must sign up through guidance.

Updated August 2017