

7th Grade: Social Studies and Language Arts Curriculum Night Ms. Zaffiro

Language Arts: Reading and English

Text

World of Language. Atlanta, GA: Silver Burdett & Ginn, 1996.

Literature and Language. Evanston, IL: McDougal, Little & Company, 1994.

Expectations:

1. Follow class rules. These are posted in the room and students have received a copy as well.
2. Pay attention in class. I will be giving students directions and leading class discussions. Lack of attention will cause students to miss important assignments, directions, announcements and information.
3. Students will be required to keep two separate notebooks, one for reading and one for English. These will be used for notes, discussion questions and writing responses.
4. Students will need to be active participants in class discussions and activities. I will always ask for group and individual class work to be turned in so I can assess student understanding and comprehension.
5. Written homework will be given several nights of the week. Students will be asked to keep track of these assignments and turn them on time. Per the class rules and class information passed out of the beginning of the year any late or incomplete work will be have half points taken off.
6. Writing is important in 7th grade Language Arts. The students will be asked to use the writing process to complete their assignments; this means that written assignments should be edited and spell check before they are turned in. The other steps of the process will take place in class.
7. Studying for test and quizzes are important for student success. I will always inform students a week before a test or quiz will be given. This includes vocabulary as well. There is no excuse for not being prepared.

Materials

1. Covered books
2. Proper writing materials

3. Notebooks
4. Any assigned novels when we get to those units.
5. Loose leaf
6. Any assigned materials- Homework, projects etc.
7. Assignment book

Class Format

1. Large and small group activities
2. Short term and long term assignments
3. Lecture, note taking, reading, and class discussions
4. Units on novels

Grading

1. Points earned out of total possible points
2. Homework graded based on requirements
3. Projects graded based on requirements
4. Tests are announced

Novels

- *House of Dies Drear
- *The Witch of Blackbird Pond
- *My Brother Sam is Dead
- *Johnny Tremain
- *Jump Ship to Freedom
- *Across Five Aprils
- *Esperanza Rising

This list also coincides with many historical time periods we will discuss this year.

** I reserve the right to change this list at any time.

Novel Project

At the end of the year I will allow the students to choose a novel to read from a list I give them. By this time we will have worked through the writing process and will be covering how to properly format a short research assignment. During this assignment which will span most of the fourth quarter students will read the novel and create a research paper based on an assigned writing prompt.

Social Studies

Text

Creating America: A History of the United States Beginnings through Reconstruction. Evanston, IL: McDougal Littell, 2005.

Expectations:

1. See above Language Arts Expectations.
2. My biggest concern with Social Studies is reading. Students must complete assigned reading and the accompanying work if they are to be successful in this class. Reading will be our basis for class discussion and notes. Students will always have a guided note taking activity to do with the reading.
3. "Pop" quizzes are to be expected after reading is assigned!
4. Long term assignments and tests will be announced. I will give one weeks notice for tests, along with a study guide and at least one class day devoted to review.
5. Long term projects will be announced and explained with a set time line for completion.

Materials, class format, and grading are similar to the description found in the Language Arts section of this sheet.

** There will be research project assigned during the course of the year. This project will entail written and creative aspects based on research. Class time is always devoted to research and development of a project.

Contact Information:

I wanted to make a correction from my letter to you at the beginning of the year. I will be using my yahoo e-mail to send out class communication instead of the St. Gabriel e-mail I gave you. I am much more comfortable using Yahoo. I will be sending out the first parent e-mail update tomorrow after school. You will receive this e-mail from anne.zaffiro@yahoo.com. I have programmed your e-mails from the communication sheet into a contact list. If I did not receive an e-mail from you please give it to me before you leave tonight. Thanks!

Anne Zaffiro