

SYLLABUS 8E LITERACY



2025-
2026

Course Description

Eighth-grade students read from a variety of genres. During the reading, students maintain active reading notes, engage in both informal and formal discussions, respond to various writing prompts, and study vocabulary. Following the reading of at least one core text, students write a literary essay in which they use textual evidence, including quotations, to support a thesis. In addition to the core texts, eighth graders study several short stories, poems, and essays. Students also are expected to read a wide variety of self-selected books. As students build a portfolio of writing designed to help strengthen their skills, they work closely with teachers in individual conferences.



Mrs. Fulstone

ABOUT ME

Greetings, 8th-grade parents! I have been a teacher at Wydown for the past 21 years. For the first 10 years, I taught 6th grade Social Studies & Literacy. Then, in 2014 I switched over to teaching 7th-grade Literacy. This will be my second year teaching 8th grade Literacy.



Contact Info

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You may notice in PowerSchool my name is Sohon Fulstone. Sohon is my Korean given name. I always tell my students about how I chose the name April in 1st grade because my KDG teacher couldn't pronounce it.



Getting Help!

- Pack Time HOPP days
- after school or lunch by appointment

Please reach out!



Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Draw conclusions, infer, and analyze by citing the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text
- Analyze how specific word choices and sentence structures contribute to meaning and tone
- Analyze how literary devices are used to develop setting, reveal character, advance the plot and contribute to meaning
- Evaluate an author's argument, assessing whether reasoning is found and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced
- Argumentative writing introducing and supporting a claim with clear reasons and relevant evidence, acknowledging counterclaims, and establishing relationships between claims, counterclaims, and supporting evidence.
- Revise, and edit writing with consideration for the task, purpose, and audience.
- Introduce the topic, maintain a clear focus throughout the text, and provide a conclusion that follows from the text. Add or delete content and change organization to achieve writer's purpose
- Choose precise language and make syntactical choices appropriate for the style, task, and audience

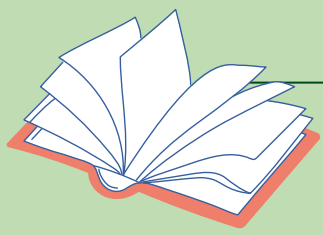
REQUIRED TEXTS (SUPPLIED BY THE DISTRICT)

Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay

12 Angry Men by Reginald Rose

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson





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Course Outline

Reading

Writing

New Perspectives window books
Exploration of elements of fiction

Q1

Short narrative
Literary Analysis

Patron Saints of Nothing
Core Text

Q2

Persuasive essay on theme
Writing menu

12 Angry Men
Core Text

Q3

Reading Letter
Research one-pager

Speak
Core Text

Q4

Poetry
Reading Scrapbook

Students will be working on independent reading habits and skills throughout the year.

Wydown 8th graders are expected to read a minimum of 30 minutes 3 times a week (or an average of 90 minutes a week)



Grading Policy

Similar to all of the other classes at Wydown, grades will be based on total points in three different categories:

Prep / Practice: In Literacy class, this will come in the form of the Writer's Notebook. This is where we do a significant amount of first draft writing. There will be a graded notebook check every two weeks, graded for completion. This category is worth 10% of your total grade.

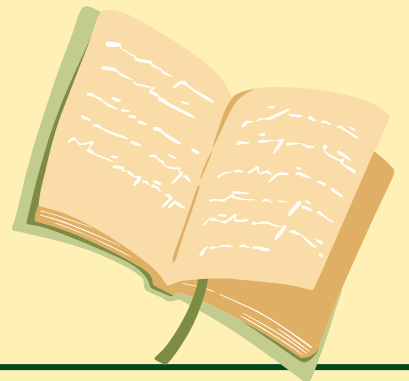
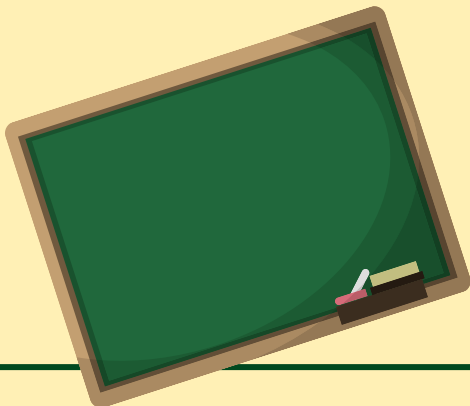
Classwork: All projects and activities which are assigned and completed in class will fall into this category. For example, elements of fiction projects and outlines. This category is worth 40% of your total grade.

Assessments: These are final projects which are due at the end of units. For example, all three types of essays: expository, narrative, and persuasive. In addition, all final creative writing assignments and presentations are assessments. This category is worth 50% of your total grade.

Late Work Policy

Teachers will accept late assignments until the end of a unit or end of a quarter, as designated by each teacher. However, the grading of that late work may not be immediate, as teachers are constantly grading current work.

Toward the end of a quarter or unit, assignments cannot be submitted late due to the deadlines for teachers to complete all of their grades.





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Academic Integrity

Wydown Middle School values academic integrity and honesty. These values are fundamental to the teaching and learning process. Teachers and administrators expect that all work be entirely the result of the student's own efforts. Plagiarism, a major form of cheating, is the act of stealing ideas and/or expressions of another and representing them as your own. Any ideas or direct quotes from others must be properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, using AI (like ChatGPT), or other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Collaboration is not the same as cheating or plagiarism. Teachers will inform students when collaboration among a group of students is an appropriate option. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on specific evidence provided by the classroom teacher or other supervising individual. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary action at the classroom and/or building level.

Because we believe that a student should be writing their own work in all classes, plagiarism will be tracked across all classes.

Consequences

First Offense

The student will receive a failing grade for the assignment and the parent will be notified of the violation of the Academic Integrity Policy.

Second Offense

The student will receive a failing grade for the assignment. The student will have a meeting with parents, teachers, and administration regarding the violation of the Academic Integrity Policy.

Third Offense

Administration will be notified, and they will contact parents regarding the violation of the Academic Integrity Policy. The student will have a consequence determined by the administrators.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your literacy teacher or grade-level administrator.
