



English 8: Studies and Strategies

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Class Website: <https://sites.google.com/greenvilleschools.us/harbin/home>

Planning Time/Extra Help

Planning time is 2nd period (9:04 to 9:49am) and 3rd period (9:52 to 10:37)

Help is available before and after school with prior appointment, during office hours, and anytime by email.

Course Description

This course is designed to meet the needs of those students whose reading and language arts skills are sufficient to allow them to read grade level texts, although some students will require some additional support. Instruction will continue to reinforce foundational skills. Students will analyze what they have read more deeply, and respond to texts in writing. The students in this course will continue to receive instruction in more sophisticated reading practices that prepare the student for literary analysis. Writing instruction, vocabulary development, and research opportunities will be provided.

Enrichment

If able due to this year's schedule, students will participate in enrichment sessions lasting from three to four weeks each. The sessions are nearly every Friday morning during the school year. See the school's website for details.

Supplies

In the classroom, the students are asked to have the following items to be brought daily to be considered "prepared":

1. Pack of pencils (#2 wood or mechanical) - each student must have a pencil daily in class.
2. 1 package college rule paper to leave in the classroom (Loose-leaf paper will be needed all year).
3. 1 one-inch binder
4. Notebook dividers to leave in the one-inch binder
5. One box of Kleenex to leave in the classroom
6. One roll of paper towels
7. Charged laptop computer: One will be provided to each student (see policy on the school website) and notes below.
8. Earbuds that the student must bring to class daily. Do **not** buy earbuds just for English class- they can be used in multiple classes.

Textbook: Houghton Mifflin & Harcourt into Literature Grade 8

(PROBABLE) MAJOR READINGS – in addition to other selections from literature text

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes

The Outsiders by SE Hinton

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and The Churchill Club by Phillip Hoose

The Diary of Anne Frank

[Sevier Middle - Master List of Full-Length Texts Used for Instruction :: 2026-2027](#)

(Good to have personal copies of novels to mark although students may generally borrow school copies. Student may be charged for lost book borrowed from the school.)

*****NOVELS MAY BE ASSIGNED AS OUTSIDE OF CLASS READING*****

Classroom Conduct

Students are expected to maintain an atmosphere of respect at all times. When students enter the classroom, they are expected to immediately retrieve the required materials and proceed to their seats. Students will read for the first 10 minutes of every class period. Arriving tardy to class is disruptive and interrupts the learning process. Excessive tardies will be dealt with in

accordance with the rules in the student handbook. Dress code violations, zero tolerance issues, profanity, fighting, or direct insubordination will face immediate disciplinary action.

Grading Procedures/Policies

Students are expected to do their very best on all assignments throughout the grading period regardless of their current grade average in the class.

Grading Scale:

- A 100-90
- B 89-80
- C 79-70
- D 69-60
- F 59-0

Major Assessments (tests) and Compositions = 50 %

Minor Assessments (quizzes, class work) = 50 %

New Board Policy states that ALL students can receive a grade below 50%; therefore, there is no longer a grade floor policy for either individual grades or quarterly/semester grades. Students can and will receive the grade earned on the work submitted. Both NHI (Not Handed In) and MDA (Missed Due to Absence) grades will code as a 0 until the assignment is received and graded - please see Makeup Work/Late Work/Retake Policies below for further guidance.

Makeup Work/Late Work/Retake Policies

Please see this [link](#) for guidance on both the makeup work/late work and retake policies for Sevier Middle School.

AI Expectations

The use of District-approved AI tools is at the teacher's discretion based on specific learning goals and content standards.

Unauthorized student AI use on assignments is considered a violation of the Behavior Code and will be treated as plagiarism under Board Policy JCDA.

To protect and encourage individuality and genuine student work, the use of AI for all assignments in this course will be PROHIBITED. Students need to be able to develop critical thinking, summarizing, writing, editing, and revising skills and the use of AI diminishes the ability to develop those skills independently, as such, there is no use for it in this course.

Laptop Expectations

Students must charge their devices each evening. If the battery dies during the day, it may not be possible to charge it at school. Students will still be responsible for work missed if the device is not charged. Repeatedly failing to have a charged device, and thereby hindering a student's ability to participate in class, could result in disciplinary action.

Standards:

The Scope and Sequence for your course(s) are to reflect South Carolina State Standards and can be found at:

https://eoc.sc.gov/sites/eoc/files/Documents/Revised%208th%20Grade%20FFSS_ELA.pdf

Course Outline: (Units from Rubicon Atlas)

Unit One: *Flowers for Algernon*, Short Story Literature Analysis, Narrative Writing, Text Dependent Writing Overview

Unit Two: *The Outsiders*; Argument writing

Unit Three: *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler*; informational memoir analysis; Research and Informational Writing

Unit Four: *The Diary of Anne Frank* Drama; Poetry analysis

[Middle School Landing Page](#)

Inquiry, grammar and vocabulary development is embedded into each unit of study

I look forward to working with your student this year! Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.