

Happy Kids Middle School Program

A Year at a Glance

Welcome (back, for many of you) to the Happy Kids Middle School Program. Over the course of the next 32 Saturdays, we will be studying **four units** and learning both literary and social science concepts from them. Below is a look at how the year will be laid out. This class will combine middle school English with middle school world geography, history, and civics (as you would find them in an American classroom.) I hope you enjoy this chance to read the fantastic novels and learn much. This class is divided into four distinct units with a general focus of year being on the **power of ideas**. See the chart below to learn more.

Dates	Unit Themes	Novel
August 31 - November 2	Poetry, creative expression, figurative language, the human experience	<i>Poetry Speaks: Who I Am</i> by Elsie Paschen
November 9 – December 28	Media, misinformation, “fake news”, media literacy, elections	<i>Nothing But the Truth</i> by Avi
January 4 - March 14	Shakespearean English, romantic tropes, forbidden love, suicide	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> by William Shakespeare
March 21 – May 16	Mental health, bullying, depression, teen suicide	<i>Thirteen Reasons Why</i> by Jay Asher

The units will consist of many different types of lessons and assignments. While we will be reading some in class, you will be expected to read each week independently **at home**. This is so class time can be spent on activities and lessons.

A special year-long activity in this class is the Joined Nations. This is a model United Nations activity that helps us learn about current issues facing the world today as well the democratic process. Learn more at joinednations.happykids.taipei

I hope you can make it to every class, but if you cannot please notify me before so I can keep you from falling behind in class. All class news, information, assignment instructions, and important documents will be put online for you at mrbrunken.happykids.taipei/middleschool and in **Google Classroom**. As always, please email me at jbrunken@happykids.taipei if you have questions, suggestions, or if you will be missing class one week.