

Lakehurst School District  
English 8 Syllabus  
2025-2026

Teacher Information

Name: Laura Rash

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**Course Description:** Eighth Grade Language Arts is designed to involve the student in applying reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing skills in an independent manner through meaningful interdisciplinary tasks. Students will continue to develop an appreciation for literature through the study of literary elements in classic and contemporary selections. Emphasis is placed on moving from the literal to the abstract in the students' critical thinking skills and in the use of language.

<b>Methods of Instruction:</b> Students will be engaged in the learning process by:	<b>Assessment Types:</b> Student's skills will be assessed through the following assignments:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individual exploration and research</li><li>• Group discussions</li><li>• Small group team-oriented activities</li><li>• Hands-on activities such as projects and portfolio work</li><li>• Oral presentations</li><li>• Written compositions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Narrative Nonfiction Writing</li><li>❖ Argumentative Writing</li><li>❖ Informational Writing</li><li>❖ Research Simulation</li><li>❖ Literary Analysis Writing</li><li>❖ Presentations</li><li>❖ Individual &amp; Group Projects</li><li>❖ Tests</li><li>❖ Do Nows, Classwork, Homework, etc.</li></ul>

**Course Theme:** Exploration of the human experience and the importance of telling your/a story.

**Possible Texts:**

- Short Stories, Poems, Speeches
- Nonfiction Articles
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *I am Malala* by Malala Youzafazi
- "12 Angry Men" by Reginald Rose

**Course Expectations:**

- Attendance is necessary to keep up with the class. If a student misses class time, they are missing the instruction time needed to learn a skill. However, if a student must miss class, they are required to make up missed work in a timely manner (1 day for each excused day missed, after which deductions will be made for late work).
  - *Absent Tuesday and in school Wednesday → makeup work on Wednesday and turn in missed work on Thursday.*
- Students are expected to be in their seats when the bell rings/at the start of class.

- Students are required to participate in class and be respectful to their peers, themselves, and their teacher. Consequences for misconduct may include detention, written assignments, parent notification, or an office referral.
- Plagiarism and cheating have no place in a community of learners. Each student is required to put forth their personal best. Everyone has something important and valuable to add to our learning experience. If a student is suspected of plagiarism or cheating, the parents and the principal will be notified and consequences will be determined.
- Students are required to keep up with their assigned reading and turn in assignments on time. Students will lose valuable learning experiences if they come to class unprepared.

**Independent Book Studies:** Each marking period students are required to choose a novel to read independently. This novel should be one not previously read on their own or with a class. The novels should be grade level appropriate and be of interest to the student. This novel should be one not previously read on their own or with a class. Students are free to read biographies, non-fiction, fiction, or graphic novels. If a student is unsure whether a book meets the criteria for this quarterly assignment they should confer with the teacher. Once a student completes reading the novel, they should fill out the appropriate Book Report Form and turn it in by the assigned due date.

**Reading Comprehension:** Each week students will receive an RCP (Reading Comprehension Practice). The assignment is to simply read the passage(s) and answer the multiple choice and/or short answer questions. These weekly assignments build on core reading skills and help students practice close reading.

**Late Work:** Late work will be accepted with a penalty. After one week, assignments will no longer be accepted.

**Grade Policy:** All MP grades are final. Students should be tracking their progress throughout the marking period as well as keeping in touch with me if they are concerned. Any student who scores below a 70 on an assessment will always have the option to edit and revise for a higher grade before the end of the MP. Upon revision, the highest grade that can be earned is a 75. The student must reach out and advocate for themselves to revise their work. The teacher will not seek out students.

**Electronics policy:** Cell phones and headphones are not allowed out in class. Students must keep their electronics away. If the device is taken out, used, or given to another student, the device will be taken away and administration and guardians will be notified.

## **Academic Integrity: AI/chatGPT and Plagiarism**

### 1. Unacceptable AI Use:

- a. Plagiarism: students may not use AI work to generate content for assignments. This includes all or portions of an assignment. It also includes using AI to rearrange the words of original content.
- b. Not Citing AI-generated Text: Even if AI is allowed for an assignment, students may not use the tool without proper and correct citations.
- c. Cheating on Assessments: Use of AI to cheat during assessments, including finding answers online, is strictly prohibited.
- d. Fabrication of Data: AI tools should not be used to generate fake data or manipulate results in any research or project work.

### 2. Collaboration

Collaboration on assignments should only be done on assignments where the instructions say there should be

collaboration (work with another person). At no time should your ideas, opinions or open-ended answers be identical to another classmate. If assignments are copied an automatic zero will be given to both/all students. Students should refrain from looking up answers on the internet. Original thoughts are valued and show a student’s true ability and growth.

3. Sources/Citing

All cited sources should meet the quality of sources discussed in class. Citing online summary tools is unacceptable. Any ideas that are not your own original work, whether on a homework assignment, essay, or presentation, should be cited. Plagiarism of any form will result in an automatic 0 without an option to rewrite.

4. Integrity on Electronic Threads

Remember that everything you write gives me an impression of you. Furthermore, your online comments can be easily archived and referred to in the future. Please keep any comments on Google Classroom appropriate and respectful. You will lose your privilege to make comments on these threads if you are making inappropriate comments.

**Consequences for Violation:** Students who violate the classroom AI and plagiarism policy will receive a zero on the assignment without the chance to redo it. The violation may also result in disciplinary action.

Grading Policy	
Tests & Projects	30%
Writing	25%
Quizzes	15%
Classwork	10%
Homework	10%
Reading Comprehension	10%

Thank you for being involved and active in your student’s educational experience. We look forward to a great year!

Mrs. Laura Rash  
English 7 and 8

**Please read and sign the below form. Send the bottom half back in with your child.**

\_\_\_\_\_

—

I have read the course syllabus and reviewed it with my child. We both understand the Electronics Policy, Academic Integrity (AI/chatGPT and plagiarism), and student expectations.

_____	_____
(Parent/Guardian Signature)	(Date)
_____	_____
(Student Signature)	(Date)

Throughout the year, clips of TV shows and movies will be shown to enhance students’ understanding of a text/concept; some of these will be rated PG-13. Please indicate whether you give your child permission to view the media.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, my child has permission.                      \_\_\_\_\_ No, my child does NOT have permission.

_____	_____
(Parent/Guardian Signature)	(Date)