



# MRS. HUGHES'S 8TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS HONORS SYLLABUS

Discovery Middle School  
1304 Hughes Road  
Madison, AL 35758

Teacher: Mrs. Leslie Hughes

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Class Webpage: Google Classroom Codes will be given to students in the classroom.

Phone Numbers: 256-837-3735 ext. 114

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

To help students prepare for college and future careers, the foundation for 8th Grade English stems from the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards for incoming 8th graders who will eventually progress to 9th Honors Language Arts or AP English. The content standards focus on four specific areas: reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and collaborative strategies are used purposefully to build knowledge and skills and to help students become independent readers, writers, and thinkers as they transition into high school. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content, and develop academic habits of mind. Outside and summer reading are required. Additional information for this course can be found on the Alabama Department of education website: <https://www.alsde.edu/>.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will develop and strengthen critical thinking skills by reading, comprehending, and engaging with both literary and informational texts. Students will make text-to-text connections, text-to-world connections, and text-to-self connections. Students will be able to identify, define, and duplicate examples of figurative language found in texts. They will demonstrate their understanding of the text through various formative and summative assessments. Students will display the convergence of their independent thoughts and textual examples in the writing of paragraphs and essays, as well as develop clear and concise writing skills through the execution of writing assignments and the application of proofreading and editing skills. Students will also improve their writing through the increased understanding and application of grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary skills. Students will be able to respectfully engage critically and constructively in oral exchanges of ideas through class discussions, small group assignments, and project-based learning. Students will develop and display clear written and verbal communication skills

## CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

### Classroom Rules and Procedures

**Be responsible, be respectful, be prepared, be on time, and be on task.**

Students should refer to the Student Handbook for any clarification of classroom and school rules.

### Accommodations

Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.

### Concerning laptop and cell phone utilization

1. Student laptops should not be hard wired to the network or have print capabilities.
2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or USB devices will not be allowed on MCS computers.
3. Neither the teacher nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops or cell phones.
4. Laptops and other electronic devices, including **cell phones** and tablets, will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.

## REMIND & GOOGLE CLASSROOM

There are two main forms of communication for this class outside of email: **Remind and Google Classroom**. Please sign up for Remind, our class notification system. Students will also join Google Classroom. Notifications, assignments, and other information will be posted in Google Classroom. Your students can provide the code for you to join, or you can email me for further instructions.

## GRADING POLICY:

Test grades will account for 60% of the 9-weeks grade, with the remaining 40% being determined by quiz/daily grades. The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (65-69), and F (below 65). Grades will be a reflection of mastery of the standards. Make sure all absences are excused, as class work can be made up and graded for excused absences only.

## MAKE-UP POLICY:

The academic misconduct policy of the school will be followed in this course. Good attendance and punctuality are crucial. If a student misses school, and it is an excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to approach the teacher for any make-up work. Students have three days from their return to school to complete and turn in missing assignments or tests.

Please turn work in on time! Assignments that are turned in late (after the class in which they were due) will receive a deduction of 10% for each day that they are late. **No late work will be accepted after three days!** A grade of 'NTN' will be entered in iNow for all missing assignments. Graded work will be placed in students' folders. It is the student's responsibility to check these folders and bring home all graded work.

Re-tests and extra-credit work will not be given.

## TEXTBOOK:

The textbook, *Mirrors and Windows*- Level III, will be used in class as a supplemental resource. Novels will regularly be used in class during specific units. Please contact Mrs. Lack for more details.

**Publisher:** EMC Publishing (2009)

**ISBN-10:** 0821931059

**ISBN-13:** 978-0821931059

## MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Student success depends on coming to school prepared. Please bring the following to class: pencils, highlighters, loose-leaf paper, a red, plastic, 3-prong pocket folder, one composition notebook, a binder for notes/work, homework, and novels.

## COURSE OUTLINE:

The content for the year is divided into units. A unit will span nine weeks. The units are as follows:

### First 9-Weeks – Rites of Passage

- Classroom procedures & routines/summer reading assessment
- Responding to short stories & connected texts

### Second 9-Weeks- Mystery & Suspense/Challenges & Choices

- *Dystopian Selection (tba)*
- *Short fiction & nonfiction selections*

### Third 9-Weeks-Overcoming Adversity

- *Harlem Renaissance Studies*
- *Holocaust Studies*

### Fourth 9-Weeks- Mixed Emotions

- Myths & Legends
- Young Adult Teacher Choice (tba)