



Journey Middle School

217 Celtic Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

Honors ELA 8

Ms. Shandi N. Silk

Teacher Contact Information	Email: snsilk@madisoncity.k12.al.us Classroom Phone: ext. 84228
Classroom Digital Platforms	Webpage Link Distribution List Link
Textbook Information	StudySync Grade 8, McGraw-Hill
Course Description	<p>8th Grade Honors Language Arts is an accelerated learning environment, which requires students to work more independently in class and at home. Students are required to read at and above grade-level texts independently and at an accelerated pace. To help students prepare for college and future careers, the foundation for 8th Grade Honors Language Arts stems from the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards for incoming 8th graders who will eventually progress to 9th Grade Pre-AP English. Students will collaboratively then independently participate in the research process and compose a published product of their findings. Students will also implement Madison City’s writing curriculum, Claim-Data-Commentary in written responses. 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.</p>
Course Objectives	<p>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, text-to-world, 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 a dialogue of ideas through class discussion, small group assignments, and project-based learning. Students will develop and display clear written and verbal communication skills.</p>
Course Outline	<p>Unit 1: <i>Sunny</i> by Jason Reynolds & review of 7th grade literary skills Unit 2: <i>The Outsiders</i> by S.E. Hinton Unit 3: Narrative Writing Unit 4: Short Stories (“The Monkey’s Paw,” “The Tell Tale Heart,” and others) Unit 5: Argumentative Writing Unit 1 Unit 6: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury Unit 7: <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak Unit 8: Holocaust Research & Essay Writing Unit 9: ACAP Review Unit 10: Poetic Devices & Shakespearean Play <i>Grammar & vocabulary embedded throughout the school year.</i> <u><i>*This is subject to change at teacher discretion.</i></u></p>

Classroom Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be respectful, and be responsible. • Cell phones are silenced and placed in an assigned pouch at the start of class. • Bring your school issued chromebook and charger to school. • Charge your chromebook at home.
Progressive Discipline	<p>Step 1: Verbal warning Step 2: Student/teacher conference Step 3: Parent contact/conference Step 4: Detention and a parent contact Step 5: Office referral</p>
Grading Policy	<p>60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) 40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)</p>
Late Work Policy	<p>Late work is accepted with a penalty of 10% of every day it is late. I will not accept late work after the nine-week term is over. Please communicate with me in advance if there is an extenuating circumstance. I am here to help and work with you!</p>
Make-up Work/Test Policy	<p>Students with excused absences can make up all work within three days of returning to school. It is the student's responsibility to ask for and/or schedule make-up work. After three days, any incomplete or missing work will become a zero (including quizzes/tests). Students who score below a 65% on a test are eligible for a retake. However, students may not score above 85% on their second test. Students are responsible for coordinating and scheduling a retake with their teacher.</p>
Technology	<p>Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. Neither the teacher nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.</p>
Accommodations	<p>Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.</p>
Turnitin Notice (ELA Classes only)	<p>The majority of writing assignments in this course will be submitted to Turnitin via the Schoology learning platform. The primary focus of this software is to help students become better writers and scholars. Turnitin generates a report on the originality of student writing by comparing it with a database of periodicals, books, online content, student papers, and other published work. This program will help students discern when they are using sources fairly, citing properly, and paraphrasing effectively—skills essential to all academic work. Students will have the opportunity to review their Turnitin originality report and will have the opportunity to make revisions before submitting their work for grading. Once their work is submitted, teachers can view the student's originality report and grade accordingly.</p>
Materials & Supplies	<p>One 1-inch three-ring binder, loose-leaf notebook paper, pencils/pens, and assorted highlighters. Please bring your school-issued Chromebook and charger to class every day. You will also need headphones or earbuds with an auxiliary jack cord.</p> <p>We will read several novels this year. Honors ELA students are required to purchase their own copies of the following novels. Please do not read these novels ahead of time, except the summer reading novel.</p> <p><i>Sunny</i> by Jason Reynolds (Summer Reading) <i>The Outsiders</i> by S.E. Hinton <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak TBD Shakespearean Play</p>
Homework	<p>During novel studies, students may be asked to read outside of class. Excluding novel studies, homework is rarely assigned. It is typically an extension of the day's lesson and/or work not completed in class.</p>
Parent & Student Acknowledgment Form	<p>Complete this Acknowledgement Form after you have read the syllabus.</p>