

8th Grade English Syllabus

Mt. Princeton Core



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Adopted Texts:

- *The Language of Literature* (2001). Evanston, IL: McDougal Littell, Inc.
- *Best Nonfiction - Advanced Level* (1998). Chicago: Jamestown Publishers.
- District-approved novels and teacher-selected readings

My core beliefs about teaching and learning:

- Embrace each opportunity you meet and allow yourself to succeed at anything.
- Each student has something unique to offer, and we value and respect each other.
- Read like a writer, and write like a reader.
- Attitude is everything!

Bring these materials to class everyday:

- Planner, two composition notebooks, pencils, blue or black pens, colored grading/editing pens, and your independent reading book.

Assignment Categories and Weight (according to core policy):

- **Summative Assessments and Projects = 70%**
 - Common District Assessments, tests, quizzes, presentations, projects, major writing assignments (including My Access)
- **Formative Assessments = 30%**
 - Class work, Homework, Independent Reading Assignments (IRA)
 - Group project grades will be an average of the individual assessment grade and an overall product grade.

Grading Scales:

- 100% - 90% = A, 89% - 80% = B, 79% - 70% = C, 69% - 60% = D, Below 59% = F
- 4 = Advanced, 3 = Proficient, 2 = Partially Proficient, 1 = Unsatisfactory

Reading:

Daily extended periods of reading are *essential* for reading growth. Eighth grade students need to *read 25-30 minutes at a time, 5-6 nights per week*. Reading aloud to siblings counts! Independent reading assignments will accompany this reading requirement and focus on various genres.

Homework:

Homework will occur 1-3 times a week and will vary according to the material we are studying. Please check your planner and/or my website for current assignment information.

Late Work Policy:

Turning assignments in on time promotes success in school. Please stay current on readings and assignments and see Mrs. Ryan, go to Homework Helpers, and/or ask for help when you need it! Per core policy:

- A missing assignment receives a 10% deduction for *each* day it is late, up to a maximum deduction of 30%.
- A missing assignment receives zero points until it is turned in.

Tardy Policy:

Students are expected to be *in their seats* and completing their *planners* when the bell rings. Students must sign the tardy log if they are late. According to core policy, consequences for tardies are:

- 1st Tardy - Warning
- 2nd Tardy - Stay two minutes after the bell.
- 3rd Tardy - Per school policy, a referral is turned in to the 8th grade administrator.
- 4th Tardy - If tardies continue to occur, consequences will be determined by core teachers and administrators, possibly resulting additional referrals.

Absences:

It is the student's responsibility to obtain information, notes, and assignments after an absence of any length. *Please check the website before returning to class*. Students have one day for every day of absence *plus* another day to make up the missing work for *full credit*. Work must be placed in the Absent/Late Basket *with an Absent Coupon* stapled to the front. Any assignment in the basket without the coupon will be considered late.

Colorado Language Arts Standards	District Requirements for Meeting State Standards: Grade 8 Key Concepts and Topics
<p>Standard 1 - Reading Students read and understand a variety of materials.</p>	<p>Use fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama to enhance use of strategies before, during and after reading. Include vocabulary study, fluency, and independent reading. SRI scores should meet or exceed 1150 by the end of 8th grade.</p>
<p>Standard 2 - Writing & Speaking Students write effectively and correctly for a variety of purposes and audiences.</p>	<p>Use Writer's Workshop to focus on writing processes and building fluency. Includes: opinion paper, research project, creative writing, memoir, Socratic Seminar, and extemporaneous speaking.</p>
<p>Standard 3 - Conventional Writing & Speaking Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.</p>	<p>Focus on complete, compound and complex sentences, capitalization and punctuation (commas, colons, and quotes), homonyms, conventional spelling, paragraphing, modifiers, conjunctions, interjections, regular and irregular verbs, MLA format, and common usage errors as needed.</p>
<p>Standard 4 - Thinking Skills Students apply critical thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.</p>	<p>Understand author's purpose, point of view, problem solving, fact and opinion, predictions/conclusions, main idea/details. Encourage and strengthen good study skills.</p>
<p>Standard 5 - Information Literacy Students read to locate select, and make use of relevant information from a variety of media, reference, and technological sources.</p>	<p>Focus on pre-search methods and research strategies, interpret and evaluate information. Practice ethical and responsible use of materials, and create bibliographies in MLA format.</p>
<p>Standard 6 - Literature Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.</p>	<p>Use fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama to create plot lines, identify types of conflict, and review figurative language and literary terminology.</p>

By the end of eighth grade, students should be able to:

1. Read and understand a variety of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama.
2. Write effectively and correctly for a variety of audiences and purposes.
3. Communicate effectively, listen critically, and respond appropriately in a variety of situations.
4. Access, select, evaluate and efficiently use information from a variety of sources.
5. Read, recognize, and explore literature as an expression and record of human experience.

PUBLIC LIBRARY INFORMATION

Independent reading will be required throughout the year. The books must have a Reading Counts Quiz, but they need not come from our SRMS Library. The Reading Counts program has 45,000 quizzes available! Branch out (to your local library) and read something new! Library cards are also FREE!

Rangeview Library District

<http://www.anythinklibraries.org/>

College Hill Library

<http://www.ci.westminster.co.us/44.htm>

- Located at Front Range Community College, 3705 W 112th Ave Westminster, CO 80031-2140 - (303) 404-5555
- You do NOT need to be a resident of Westminster or an FRCC student to check out books.