



Reynolds High School

Language Arts 9

Building Relationships for Academic Success

Instructor Name: Megan Emms

Phone: 503-667-3186 ext 9309

Room Number: 501

Email Address: memms@rsd7.net

Note: Email is the most effective way to reach me

Required Textbooks/Materials: Pen or pencil, Chromebook, Notebook (designated for only my class), relevant texts

Course Description: This course is designed to teach you essential skills needed for ninth grade language arts. These skills will focus on reading, writing, listening, and speaking. You will learn how to write an essay and use text evidence to support your thoughts. You will practice reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing, presenting, working with others, grammar, and critical thinking.

Course Requirements: By the end of the school year, you will be able to write a five paragraph essay including an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion. You will learn how to incorporate textual evidence and direct quotes smoothly into your writing, and how to use proper MLA format. In addition, you will grow in reading comprehension, vocabulary knowledge, critical thinking, and literary analysis. We will read three novels supplemented with short stories, poems, non fiction pieces, and documentaries.

Grading Policy Description:

- * Mastery assignments (Tests, Quizzes, Essays, Mind Maps): 60% of your grade
- * Classwork (Rough drafts, notes, worksheets): 30% of your grade
- * Power (Participation, organization, following rules, binders): 10% of your grade

Letter Grade Description

Grade Percentage	Scale Grading	Letter Grade	Description
90-100	4	A	The student fully understands the content and the course objectives have been mastered.
80-89	3	B	The student understands the content and course objectives at an above average level.
70-79	2	C	The student understands the course content and course objectives at an average level.
60-69	1	D	The student understands the course content at a below average level and a minimum of course objectives are met.
Below 60	0	F	The student has not met a sufficient number of course objectives to pass a minimum level and receives no credit.

Late Work/Retake Policy: If you are absent, the first thing you should do is check Schoology. All assignments will be there and you are welcome to print anything you need. If you still have questions, ask another student or Ms. Emms. Regarding late work, it will be accepted anytime DURING A UNIT without a reduced grade. After the unit is over, no work will be accepted from that unit. I will give ample reminders to students when we are nearing the end of a unit. Mastery essays and projects MAY be allowed outside a unit, but only if the student has personally communicated with Ms. Emms about the situation.

Sustained Silent Reading (SSR): We will have 20-30 minutes of SSR twice a week. Students must always have their choice books ready for SSR. We will go to the library with the goal of getting choice books that match a student’s interests and passions. They can read anything (except on a phone) during SSR.

Notebooks: We do the majority of our daily work in a notebook. Please get a spiral or composition notebook for your student, and make sure it is only for our Language Arts class. One will be enough to last the year. To receive full points during notebook checks, each entry should have a stamp on it given by Ms. Emms. This indicates they used class time well and finished during the period. Parents are encouraged to check in with their students regarding their notebooks so they keep on track. The notebook checks in class are worth a significant amount and it’s hard for them if they get too behind.

Course Schedule/Outline of Units

September	UNIT 1: Short stories, literary terms, thesis statements, expository paragraphs, choice books and reader responses
October	UNIT 2: Elements of fiction, the novel “The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian” by Sherman Alexie, expository paragraphs, choice books and reader responses
November	UNIT 3: Grammar, characterization methods, choice books, reader responses, book talks
December	UNIT 3: Grammar, characterization methods, choice books, reader responses, book talks
January	UNIT 4: The 5 paragraph expository essay, the novel “Of Mice and Men” by John Steinbeck, choice books and reader responses
February	UNIT 4: The 5 paragraph expository essay, the novel “Of Mice and Men” by John Steinbeck, choice books and reader responses
March	UNIT 5: Subject Vs. Theme, short stories, choice books and reader responses

April	UNIT 6: The 5 paragraph expository essay, the novel "This Side of Home" by Renee Watson, the documentary "Colin in Black and White", thematic tie-ins and comparative writing, choice books and reader responses
May	UNIT 6: The 5 paragraph expository essay, the novel "This Side of Home" by Renee Watson, the documentary "Colin in Black and White", thematic tie-ins and comparative writing, choice books and reader responses
June	UNIT 6: The 5 paragraph expository essay, the novel "This Side of Home" by Renee Watson, the documentary "Colin in Black and White", thematic tie-ins and comparative writing, choice books and reader responses, Final Exam

Class Expectations:

1. Stay in your seats until the bell rings. Do not herd by the door beforehand.
2. Keep backpacks off the tables and on the floor. Be engaged and ready to learn!
3. Cell phones are not to be out unless Ms. Emms explicitly flips the "Cell phone use" sign from RED to GREEN. Ms. Emms will tell them when its ok.
4. Airpods should be removed unless it is work time and you want to listen to music (and Ms. Emms has flipped the sign to green)
5. Have your notebook and choice book with you every day. You can store them in the classroom if you like.
6. Have your Chromebook (CHARGED AND READY) every day. There are not extra chargers in the classroom.
7. Bathroom and hall passes will be written in your planner and signed by Ms. Emms. If you don't have a planner, don't ask to leave.

*If you have any questions or concerns, at any time, email Ms. Emms. Communication is key!
Here's to a great Freshman year!! -Emms*

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

P.S. Tell me something awesome about your kid...
