

Peachtree Charter Middle School

4664 N. Peachtree Road

Atlanta, GA 30338

Eighth Grade Language Arts

Fall Syllabus 2015

Teacher: David Ayers, David_C_Ayers@dekalbschoolsga.org

Main line: (678) 676-7702

Course Description: Students will follow the Georgia Standards of Excellence. Each day, students will be exposed to a rigorous curriculum in which they will work towards gaining an enduring understanding through skills and strategies. Students will prepare rigorously for standardized tests, read at least three supplemental books each semester, and complete creative projects this semester.

Textbook: *Literature*, Holt, McDougal Littell, 2009

If the textbook is lost, stolen, or damaged (missing the barcode), it is the student's responsibility to pay for the book before a replacement book is issued. The replacement cost is \$77.19. In the event that the lost book is found, please retain all receipts.

Course Content The content includes reading from extended texts, stories from the Literature book, outside readings, Grammar Practice, spelling tests, and writing.

Eighth Grade Instructional Units:

Semester I: Unit I: Debaters, Creators and Motivators: The students will examine how text structures contribute to meaning, identify and explain the characteristics of different genres, and begin writing arguments to support a point of view.

Unit II: Freedom, Obstacles and Challenges: The students read works of historical fiction and discuss how author's perspective may differ from what actually occurred and focus on authors' point of view.

Semester II: Unit III: Poetically Speaking: Poetry vs. Prose: Students will explore drama and poetry, identify and understand connotation, tone, theme, flashback, poetic structure and devices. Unit IV: The Real Story: Students explore the element of story to analyze how each element directly or indirectly affects the story.

Dekalb County Grading Scale

100-90	A
80-89	B
71-79	C
70	D
69- 0	F

Weighted averages

Classwork (quizzes, DGP, daily work)	40%
Performance (Tests, Papers, Projects)	40%
Homework	10%
Final	10%

Policies / Regulations: It is the policy of the DeKalb County School System that students will receive a denotation of "I" (Incomplete) for any missing assignments until student work is completed. Student work must be completed within the prescribed time limit set by your school.

Homework: Homework is expected to be completed as assigned. First semester students may turn in homework one day late for a minimum of ten points off, after the second day it will be entered into the gradebook as a zero. A weekly reading log is required along with parent signature. There is an alternative book report project due at a specified date each quarter.

Make-up work: Announced work, such as homework, quizzes and major assessments are due the day the student returns. For each day's excused absence, students will have one day to make up missed work. If a student is absent under extenuating circumstances, special arrangements can be made to make up work. **IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO REQUEST/ CHECK FOR MISSED WORK.**

Academic honesty: Receiving or giving information for an assignment is cheating and when caught in the act students will not receive credit nor receive the opportunity for a chance of make-up. **Plagiarism is unacceptable:** If a student takes information from the Internet or any printed resources without a citation, it is considered plagiarism and will result in a zero. A referral to the appropriate assistant principal will be forwarded. Students must use their agendas daily to record their assignments.

*The teacher reserves the right to adjust the course work and/or differentiate instruction as needed to meet the needs of students and ensure academic success.

The rules in Mr. Ayers's classroom are quite simple.

- 1. Respect yourself.**
- 2. Respect your classmates.**
- 3. Respect your teachers.**
- 4. Respect your school.**

Failure to comply with these rules will result in consequences, parent/guardian communication, and/or referrals to a building administrator.