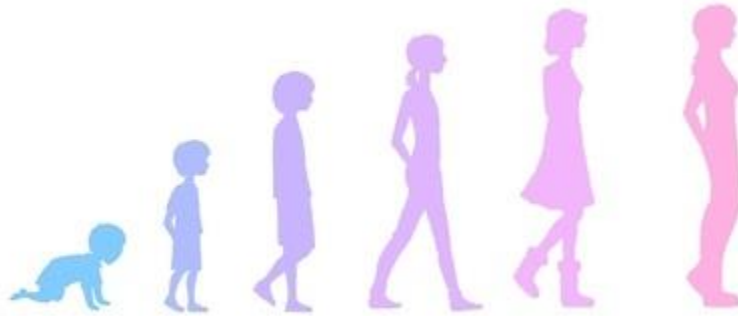


# 8th Grade Language Arts Syllabus

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## COMING OF AGE

### Course Overview:

This year's theme is coming of age, an apt subject for 12 and 13 year olds who are on the verge of their own young-adulthood. Our reading study will focus on character development, historical context, film to novel comparison, and plot development. Our writing will focus on crafting and analyzing nonfiction arguments. Several of our writing and reading units will coordinate with subjects also covered in Social Studies.

### Novels:

*The Body (Penguin Readers)* adapted from the novella by Stephen King

*A Break With Charity* by Ann Rinaldi

*Fever 1793*

*Banner in the Sky*

*The Giver*

*Ender's Game*

**Homework:** As students age into high school, homework becomes an effective tool to reinforce learning and teach personal management. In 7th and 8th grade, homework will consist primarily of work that was begun in class, but not finished due to time, and weekend reading (I provide students with a reading schedule at the beginning of every novel.).

Additionally, students will sign up for one Current Events Rhetorical Analysis presentation per term. This will need to be completed at home or during study hall.

In-class work will consist of an online journal, reading responses, class discussions, Socratic circles, and essay development.

**Writer's Workshop:** This year, a large focus of Language Arts will be on the art of writing. Students will develop their own writing goals and participate in focused writing workshops at least once per quarter. While participating in Writer's Workshop, classwork and quizzes from the literature portion of the class will be excused, however students are expected to keep up with the reading schedule and complete the final unit assessments on time.

**Grading scale:** Grades will be categorized by standards, including Personal Management and Citizenship to recognize effort. Due to the categories available in the gradebook, our standards are labelled with different terms. Here is the key for understanding student grades.

<b>LARGE STANDARD</b>	<b>Gradebook Label (% of grade)</b>	<b>Specific Standard or Requirement</b>
<b>READING</b>	Quizzes (5%)	Key Ideas and Details (Assignments that meet this standard may be classified as either quizzes or tests even when they were in-class assignments or homework.)
	Tests (10%)	
	Academic (15%)	Craft and Structure (aka: analysis)
	Projects (15%)	Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
<b>WRITING</b>	Performance (15%)	Text Type and Purpose (Purpose and Organization)
	Lab (15%)	Research (Evidence and Elaboration)

	Effort (10%)	Grammar and Conventions
<b>REAL WORLD SKILLS AND PROFESSIONALISM</b>	Personal Management (10%)	Turning in assignments on time
	Citizenship (5%)	Classroom Citizenship (behavior, promptness, preparedness, respect, etc.)

**Late / Incomplete work policy:**

Students are expected to turn their work in on time and put in a good effort. Late work will be accepted, however students will lose points in the Personal Management standard attached to each assignment at 10% per day. Occasionally, a student may turn in an assignment that shows little effort. In this case, it will be returned to the student and accepted as a late assignment when it is completed to a satisfactory level.

**Incomplete Quizzes and 0-Scores:**

The lowest quiz score will be dropped from the student's grade. If the student wishes to re-do a poor quiz for more points, he or she has one week in which to do so for half-credit per additional correct answer.

**Academic Integrity:**

**Students are expected to complete their own work. In the event of cheating, plagiarism, or assignment copying, students involved will receive a zero for the assignment and will be reported to their parent/guardian, and Lowell High School counselor and administrators.**

**Cell Phones/MP3 Players/etc..**

Unless otherwise specified, the use of handheld electronic devices is not allowed during class time. Phones must remain off and placed either in the attendance poster or in students' backpacks for the duration of the period. During certain work times, students may be permitted to listen to music. However, any further use or abuse of electronic use may result in the entire class losing the privilege.