

8th Grade Language Arts - Team Scholars
Ms. Amberly Simpson - Meyzeek Middle School - Room 310
School Phone: (502)485-8299
Email: amberly.simpson@jefferson.kyschools.us
Class website: www.queensimpson.com

Welcome to Language Arts and the beginning of a new school year! I am very happy to be here and I hope we have an insightful and captivating time together. This year will be filled with reading from a diverse collection of texts related to the theme of “The Perils of Being Human,” or why being human can be really dark, scary, and complicated. This year we will read some classic literature such as Edgar Allan Poe, delve into the Holocaust, research psychology and current events, and explore slave narratives. In writing, we will work on the craft using narrative structure to enhance informative essays and argumentation, as well as analyze and create strong arguments. We will write and conduct research on a regular basis in order to prepare you for high school and the rest of your life!

Be prepared to create a host of collaborative projects, work on your public speaking and debate skills, strengthen your vocabulary, and finally figure out those grammar rules as we work our way through the core content standards.

In order to have a safe and effective learning environment, it is important for you to completely understand what is expected of you in this classroom.

Grading

Academic Grade Calculations:

- Grades will be calculated based on the categories below and in accordance with the JCPS Promotion and Progression Policy. Grades are updated on Infinite Campus by every Sunday evening. It is important that you save your graded work in case you find an error in Infinite Campus. You will need those graded assignments as evidence. Below are the letter grade equivalents for student scores:

A (Exceeds Standards).....	90-100%
B (Meets Standards).....	80-89%
C (Approaching Standards).....	70-79%
D (Below Standards).....	60-69%
U (Unsatisfactory).....	Below 60%

Conduct Grade Calculations:

Conduct grades represent the extent to which the student does the following:

- Shows self-control and self-discipline
- Respects the rights and feelings of others
- Accepts responsibility for his or her own actions
- Cooperates in group activities

Grade Components/Categories

There are 3 categories for academic grades:

- Student Engagement with Standards (20% of total grade)
 - Possible assignments in this category include participation, group work, journal, student reflections, and other measures of student interactions.
- Student Progression toward Standards (30% of total grade)
 - Possible assignments in this category include homework, class assignments, quizzes, project planning, and other measures of student progress.

- Student Mastery of Standards (50% of total grade)
 - Possible assignments for this category include tests, proficiency assessments, performance assessments, projects, presentations, and other measures of student mastery.

Other Policies

Classroom Expectations:

1. The classroom is a safe space for all students.
2. Respect yourself, your teachers, and your peers.
3. Be all in! Commit yourself to learning and participating.
4. Communicate your needs.

We have high expectations for students. Failure to meet those expectations may result in various consequences depending on the severity and frequency of the offense. Consequences may include a phone call home, after school detention, lunch detention, behavior referrals, or administrative action.

Homework:

Students will be assigned homework, typically on Mondays to be due by that Friday. These assignments will reinforce class learning and are integral in advancing class mastery. Homework will be posted on the class website. **Late work is accepted for 10% off of the overall grade for each day that it is late and will only be accepted up to a week after it is due.**

Absences and Late Work:

If you are absent from class due to illness or a school event, work can be made up for full credit. In this case, students will need to follow the class procedure for getting missed work. All absent work needs to be made up in a timely manner (within 3 days after the absence).

Getting Missed Work and Homework:

- Students will be expected to check the daily agenda calendar on days they miss class. The calendar will have a record of class lessons, any assignments that were given, and directions for what to get. If students need help with understanding the activities and/or class events, please ask a classmate first. Additionally, one can also visit the class website at www.queensimpson.com. If students have further difficulties, please see me.
- Turn all makeup work into your class drawer and write AB on your work.

Organization:

Mastering organization skills is crucial to success in 8th grade and to the future of your education. **Students will be expected to carry their school agenda at all times and will record their homework in their school agenda.** Time will be given in class to do this, but it will be students' responsibility to record necessary reminders. **Bathroom breaks will not be given without an agenda.**

You will need to bring your composition book or class notebook, class 3-ring binder, and pencils, as well as any other personal materials you prefer EVERY DAY to class.

I look forward to our time together and will do anything I can in order to make this a successful year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Let's make this the best year yet!

-Ms. Simpson