

## Ipswich Middle School Grade 8 English Language Arts

### Curriculum Overview:

Students will pursue a year-long course of independent study in reading, writing and research skills while participating in several units of instruction across the school year with both Mr. Hurley and Mrs. Peck. Throughout the year, students will focus on the academic skills required by the high school learning community, with particular attention to research, expository and creative writing, elements of fiction, and poetry.

### Curriculum Outcomes:

Based on each strand of the January 2012 Massachusetts Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a literal, inferential and critical understanding of several **genres of literature**, including non-fiction, fiction, short stories and poetry.
- Utilize the **writing process** to construct organized and focused pieces of writing using specific details and elaboration to support ideas.
- Identify **contextual vocabulary** and word origins, and apply these skills to their own writing.
- Contribute appropriate and useful information in **class and group discussion**, as well as in oral presentations. Students will support their ideas with specific detail and elaboration.
- **Frame research inquiry, find and evaluate information**, and organize material into a focused oral and written presentation,
- Demonstrate **district-wide technology guidelines** for projects involving inquiry-based research using on-line databases. They will utilize Web 2.0 composition tools such as a wiki, online discussion forum (Moodle), and Windows MovieMaker.

### Course Content:

*Fall:* Conventions of the academic paragraph, the writing process, introduction to expository/informational text, inquiry-based digital research project, database research, argumentative writing, and study of short fiction.

*Spring:* *The Giver* novel study, poet's research project, writing of creative short fiction, fiction and memoir from the Holocaust, on-line magazine, and scrapbook descriptive writing.

### Grading Policies:

Grades will be available on-line for students and parents.

All written work is evaluated with a performance rubric, given with assignment.

Most written work may be re-submitted, using the writing process, for a revised grade.

All group project participants receive **individual** grades.

All homework, class work, and long-term assignments are expected to be submitted on-time. Late work will automatically receive partial credit, and be further deducted depending on lateness.

All formal academic composition will be submitted typed, and in accordance with MLA guidelines.

### Homework:

Nightly assignments will include assigned reading, independent reading, essay drafts and other steps assigned within long-term projects. Homework can be found on our website:

<http://kemplanglaisela.yolasite.com/homework-calendar.php>

E-mail addresses are:

[dhurley@ipswichschools.org](mailto:dhurley@ipswichschools.org) and [lpeck@ipswichschools.org](mailto:lpeck@ipswichschools.org)

### Grading Overview:

30%: Reading: daily reading evidence, on-line Moodle responses, genre goal list

30%: Composition: formal written work that has gone through all stages of the writing process

30%: Tests and Projects

10% - Homework/Classwork