

Reading/Writing Workshop Syllabus

Instructor: Michelle Tillotson

Textbooks: A Reader's Handbook & The Language of Literature series by McDougal Littell; Write on Course 20-20 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

6th and 7th grades will cover the following topics, based on the Colorado standards for middle school language arts & best practices in language arts:

1) Oral expression and listening

- a) Present in front of class using multimedia as needed to enhance presentation
- b) Successfully use speaking skills, such as voice volume, good eye contact, enunciation, and pronunciation
- c) Engage in collaborative discussions on grade-level topics and texts and listen to others during group discussions
- d) Evaluate speakers' arguments and the strength of their claims
- e) Prepare for specific audiences and purposes, adjusting presentations as necessary
- f) Implement strategies to rehearse presentation (use of notecard, practicing with peers)

2) Reading for all purposes

- a) Evaluate how an author uses words to create imagery, mood, and tone
- b) Cite textual evidence to support analysis of text
- c) Recognize elements of fiction: plot, setting, point of view, characterization, and theme in literature
- d) Identify figurative language (personification, alliteration, metaphor, simile, onomatopoeia, idiom, and hyperbole) and literary devices (dialogue, scene, flashback, foreshadowing, protagonist, antagonist, dialect, etc.) authors use in class novels and independent reading.
- e) Compare/contrast literature to a movie/theatrical version
- f) Build vocabulary through the use of context clues, locating meanings of unfamiliar words, and knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, and root words
- g) Use resources (dictionaries, thesauruses, glossaries) for word study
- h) Use reading strategies to increase comprehension (predicting, visualizing, connecting, questioning, clarifying, evaluating, comparing and contrasting, inferring, sequencing, summarizing, and locating main ideas and supporting details)
- i) Read and analyze a variety of literature (novels, short stories, plays, poetry, mythology, expository writing, etc.); discuss poetry forms and how they contribute to the meaning of the text
- j) Develop close reading skills through the use of close reading symbols while reading non-fiction articles.
- k) Develop additional critical thinking skills, such as separating fact from opinion, locating the main idea, solving problems and answering questions, analyzing what was read, defending one's point of view, etc.

3) Writing and composition

- a) Write focused and organized narratives to develop real or fictional events using precise words, descriptive details, and sensory language
 - i) Employ pre-writing strategies to plan writings (webbing, graphic organizers, outlines, etc.)
 - ii) Use literary devices, such as figurative language, to make writing interesting and detailed.
 - iii) Use literary elements of a text to present ideas and develop the writing
 - iv) Vary writing through word choice, sentence structure, and sentence length.
- b) Write focused and organized informational and persuasive pieces for specific audiences and purposes
 - i) Support claims with clear reasons and evidence.
 - ii) Determine credible sources
 - iii) Develop the topic with relevant facts, details, and examples.
 - iv) Organize information into multi-paragraph essays with a strong thesis statement, transitions
- c) Write to analyze literature, specifically looking at character, theme, or literary devices.
- d) Identify persuasive elements in a peer's writing and evaluate their effectiveness.
- e) Demonstrate effective use of conventions (grammar and spelling) in final drafts, after the revision process. Learn and practice these conventions during grammar minilessons and maintain a personal spelling list.
- f) Use technology (Google docs) to produce and publish writing and collaborate with editors

4) Research and reasoning

- a) Gather information from a variety of sources; analyze and evaluate the sources for credibility
- b) Identify a topic for short research projects, find evidence to support position, and organize the information/evidence to clearly express ideas
- c) Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis
- d) Determine claims and evidence in a text or presentation
- e) Determine strengths and weaknesses of own thinking and the thinking of others

Please call 783-4911 or e-mail me at michelle.tillotson@ccbobcats.net if you have any questions.