

Middle School Language Arts Syllabus

Ms. De La Garza

READING

Independent Reading- Students will be expected to read independently on a **daily basis**. Students are allowed to choose the books they want to read for independent reading. The only requirement for their choice will be that it is **not below or above their reading level**. Students may choose to read the newspaper or magazines as long as the magazines are appropriate for their age. Students will be given an assessment (STAR reading test) at the beginning of the year to determine their reading level. Reading assessments will be repeated during the year, if needed, and at the end of the year to check each student's progress.

*Reading Logs- Each reading log will be completed on a form provided by Ms. De La Garza that will be kept in a **braded folder**. Please refer to the reading log grading checklist for the requirements. This reading log will be graded weekly.

*Book Projects- A book project is required to be completed during each quarter. Students must choose a book in their level and read it, take an AR test on the book, and then produce a project from the three choices given by the teacher. Following the instructions **precisely** and creating a **neat** project will ensure a good grade.

Classroom Reading-

*Class Novels- As a class, students will read at least **two** novels and complete extension activities. The books will be read aloud followed by group discussion and exercises.

*Textbook- Fifth grade will also read selections from Trophies by Harcourt and sixth through eighth grades will read from the Literature series throughout the year for instruction and exposure to various literary devices and genres.

Accelerated Reading- Students are required and encouraged to participate in the AR program. By reading on-level texts and taking tests, students will show their ability to comprehend what they are reading.

*Participation Grade- For each quarter, students must pass at least one AR test (this does not include any books read as a class nor any book project books) with an 80% or better to earn a 100 for participation. This is a test grade.

*Book Project test- Also for each quarter, a test must be taken on the book chosen for the project by the due date.

Middle School Language Arts Syllabus

Ms. De La Garza

ENGLISH

Grammar- Students will receive instruction on grammar within the writing process given by the teacher.

*Daily Language Review (5th grade)/ Giggles in the Middle (6th-8th)-

Students will review grammar rules and practice proofreading skills weekly using the daily grammar activities. A spiral notebook is needed to complete the daily entries.

*Textbook- The Voyages in English grammar textbook and workbook will also be implemented for grammar instruction.

Writing- Students will be given many opportunities to sharpen their writing skills both in class and for homework. Students are expected to use the writing process (prewriting, drafting, editing, proofreading, and publishing) in all writing assignments.

*Writer's Notebook- Mini lessons will focus on specific writing techniques. Student's lessons and notes will be kept in a composition notebook. Students will spend time immediately following the instruction to practice what they have learned.

*Writing Assignments- Several writing assignments/projects will be completed throughout the year, including but not limited to: narratives that are real or imagined, opinion pieces, informative and explanatory pieces to examine a topic, and poetry.

Grading

Reading-	Daily grades (50%)- reading logs, class work, homework, classroom participation, and effort
	Test grades (50%)- AR participation, book projects, tests on reading assignments
English-	Daily grades (50%)- reading logs, class work, homework, classroom participation, and effort
	Test grades (50%)- grammar tests and writing assignments

I'm looking forward to another exciting year with you!- Ms. LG