

# 8th Grade Reading

## Mr. Davis

### **Course Overview**

This course is designed to enhance students' critical thinking, communication, and literacy skills through the study of various genres of literature and develop literacy skills through the exploration of diverse texts. Students will develop a deeper understanding of the English language and its application in real-world contexts.

### **Course Objectives**

- Develop critical reading and analysis skills.
- Enhance writing proficiency across multiple genres.
- Expand vocabulary and language usage to communicate effectively.
- Foster a love of reading and lifelong learning.

### **Oklahoma Academic Standards**

This course aligns with the Oklahoma Academic Standards for English Language Arts (ELA). Specific standards will be addressed throughout the year.

### **Units of Study**

#### **Unit 1: Foundations for Literary Analysis**

- Review of literary elements (plot, characters, setting, theme, conflict)
- Introduction to literary analysis
- Short stories and poems
- Vocabulary development

#### **Unit 2: The Power of Language**

- Grammar and mechanics review
- Sentence structure and variety
- Persuasive writing
- Research skills and citation

#### **Unit 3: Exploring Different Worlds**

- Novel study (genre TBD)
- Character analysis
- Theme exploration
- Literary response writing

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## **Unit 4: Writing for Diverse Audiences**

- Informational writing (e.g., reports, essays)
- Media literacy
- Public speaking and presentation
- Collaborative projects

### **Assessment**

Student progress will be assessed through a variety of methods, including:

- Quizzes and tests
- Writing assignments
- Projects and presentations
- Class participation
- Homework completion

### **Grading Policy**

Students will be graded on class participation, their understanding and completion of note taking, class assignments, quizzes, tests, and projects.

Daily Assignments - 30%    Test/Quiz - 50%    Projects 20%

### **Materials**

- Textbook
- Reading materials (novels, short stories, poems)
- Dictionary/thesaurus
- Access to technology (computer, tablet, or smartphone)

### **Course Policies**

- Attendance and punctuality are essential.
- Late assignments may result in a deduction of points.
- Academic honesty is expected.

### **Classroom Expectations**

- Respect for self and others
- Active participation
- Completion of assignments
- Adherence to school rules

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**Communication**

I encourage open communication between students, parents, and myself. Please feel free to contact me via email [pdavis@verdenschools.org](mailto:pdavis@verdenschools.org) or call the school to speak to me if you have any questions or concerns.