

# Middle School Language Arts 2011-2012

## **Stuff you will be reading and writing:**

This year, we will spend some time reading in the following genres:

Biography  
Adventure Fiction  
Poetry  
Science Fiction  
Mystery

Throughout the course of the year, you have total freedom to choose the topics you write about. You will, however, be expected to complete at least one of each of the following by June:

- a. a short story
- b. three to five poems or songs
- c. a persuasive piece of writing
- d. a book review
- e. a memoir

## **Stuff you will need:**

You will need to have the following items with you **every day**. There will be places in the classroom to store most of these items. All of these items are provided by the school.

A spiral notebook for daily writing  
A daily writing folder to keep loose sheets of paper  
A folder for spelling and editing work  
A folder for texts and reading work  
A composition notebook that will be your writer's handbook  
A pencil or pen  
A book to read during reading workshop

## Schedule:

This is the tentative plan of how we will conduct class. As always, it is subject to change based on our schedule, or our needs for the class period or week.

Monday / Tuesday	Wednesday / Thursday	Friday
Word Study Daily Poem Minilesson Writing Workshop Reading Workshop	Daily Poem Minilesson Writing workshop Reading Workshop	Spelling Test Book talks

## Classroom Expectations

1. Each chair should hold one person, only. We have killed too many chairs the other way. Also, **please do not rearrange the furniture.** I like it the way it is.
2. You may use the bathroom **only** during independent work time, unless it is an emergency. (Boredom does not constitute an emergency.)
3. You may eat your snack during designated snack time, only. Plan accordingly.
4. You break it, you fix it, or replace it with a new one.
5. Disruptive or otherwise rude behavior will result in give back time, or in extreme or repeated cases, a phone call or email home. If you choose not to do your work during class, I will choose to have you do it during lunch or after school.
6. Do your best, on every assignment, always.

## **Expectations for Writing**

1. Write between 3-5 pages each week in your writing notebook.
2. Sometime during this academic year, produce a finished piece of writing in each of the following genres:
  - a short story
  - three to five poems or songs
  - a persuasive piece of writing
  - a book review
  - a memoir
3. Use proper spelling and grammar as much as possible in your writing, and work toward improving your spelling and grammar over the course of the year.
4. Proofread your writing, and have a second set of eyes look a piece over before turning it in.
5. Enter words you don't know how to spell, or aren't certain of on the personal spelling list in your spelling and editing folder.
6. Take care of the materials, resources, and equipment I have provided for you.
7. Work as hard in writing workshop as I do.

## **Expectations for Reading**

1. Try new authors, subjects, purposes, and genres: expand your reading schemas.
2. Write on your blog (moodle) at least once a week about what you think and notice about the writing you are reading and in response to my and friends' comments to you.
3. Read for at least 1/2 hour every night, at least 5 nights a week.
4. Maintain a chronological record of the books you finish reading or abandon in your reading folder.
5. Take care of the books I have provided for you. Return each book you borrow to the classroom library, shelving it by the author's last name.
6. Work as hard in reading workshop as I do.

### **Resources:**

Atwell, Nancie. In the Middle. 2nd ed. Portsmouth: Boynton/ Cook Heinemann, NH.