

Center Joint Unified School District
Middle School Course Outline
English Language Arts

Course Title: GATE English

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisites: Eighth Grade Standing, Identification as a GATE Student

Course Description: The English course develops the reading, writing, listening and speaking skills of middle high school students. Reading lessons equip students with strategies to help them better understand not only stories, poetry, and essays, but also informational materials, such as newspapers, magazines, and textbooks. For writing, this course provides instruction in effective sentence and paragraph structures as well as in composing longer essays and research presentations. Students will be taught to use correct grammar and conventions for formal writing and speaking. Spelling and vocabulary units will focus on common bases, prefixes, and suffixes to enlarge the student's knowledge of the English language. In addition, there will be several opportunities for students to present and speak in front of the class to develop their public speaking skills. Students will be expected to listen and provide constructive feedback to presentations made by their peers.

Instructional Materials

Pearson *Literature*

Pearson *Writing and Grammar*

Pearson *Everyday Spelling*

Supplemental Novels

Units of Instruction

1st Quarter

(Literature) Unit 1: Fiction / Non-Fiction

Informational Text (Schedules & Timetables)

(Writing) Review Jane Schaeffer Writing Program

Biographical Sketch

Current Events Reading & Writing (AoW)

DWA (District Writing Assessment)

Root Based Spelling

2nd Quarter

(Literature) *My Brother Sam Is Dead* by Collier & Collier (a historical fiction novel)

--an interdisciplinary lesson with the American Revolution Unit in

GATE Social Studies
Informational Text (persuasive appeals in advertising)

(Writing) Comparison / Contrast Essay
My Brother Sam Is Dead Projects
Creating a Public Service Announcement or Advertisement using Power Point
Root Based Spelling

(Listening and Speaking) Project Presentations

3rd Quarter

(Literature) Unit 3 Nonfiction
Informational Text (public document/contract/application)

(Writing) How-To Essay
Cause & Effect Essay
DWA #2 Response to Literature or Persuasive Essay
Root Based Spelling

4th Quarter

(Literature) Unit 4 Poetry
Historical Fiction Literature Circles using various novels
--another interdisciplinary lesson connected to the American History units in
GATE Social Studies

• <i>Farewell to Manzanar</i>	• <i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>
• <i>Bold Journey</i>	• <i>The Glory Field</i>
• <i>Lyddie</i>	• <i>Sing Down the Moon</i>
• <i>The Light in the Forest</i>	• <i>The River Between Us</i>
• <i>Sing Down the Moon</i>	other selected novels as available

(Writing) Research Paper using Primary & Secondary Sources
Inquiry-Based Research Techniques
MLA citation

(Listening and Speaking) Literature Circle Discussion Groups

All Year

Students will be required to read a minimum of 30 minutes a night and reach AR reading goals each quarter.

Instructional Strategies

- Lecture/Note taking/Power Points
- Observation/Demonstration
- Written assignments
- Audio-visual aids
- Tests/quizzes
- Cooperative groups
- Group projects

Evaluation

Student progress will be evaluated by:

Assessments = 50% of semester grade

Benchmarks = 10% of semester grade

Assignments = 30% of semester grade

Other(includes AR) = 10% of semester grade