

“Time to Read” Class
7th and 8th Grade Reading Elective
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Middle School Library

Course Overview

Time to Read is a semester-long reading elective offered to 7th and 8th grade students who want more time to read. This course is tailored each semester to the unique reading needs and interests of the enrolled students. Generally, students are provided time to read and study self-selected novels with the class, a small group, or sometimes independently. Over the course of reading, students are invited to discuss the text and answer guiding questions aimed at maintaining and building comprehension skills while deepening student understanding of elements of literature. At the conclusion of each class novel, students enjoy comparing the text to the movie version when available. This opens up discussions regarding the limitations of film versus text and serves as a reward for time spent reading.

Standards

Please refer to the 7th and 8th grade English language arts standards for Reading Literature: “Students read and respond to works of literature - with emphasis on comprehension, making connections among ideas and between texts with focus on textual evidence.”

CC.1.3.7.A Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

CC.1.3.7.B Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences, conclusions, and/or generalizations drawn from the text.

CC.1.3.7.C Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact and how setting shapes the characters or plot.

CC.1.3.7.D Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.

CC.1.3.7.E Analyze how the structure or form of a text contributes to its meaning.

CC.1.3.7.F Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in grade-level reading and content, including interpretation of figurative, connotative meanings.

CC.1.3.7.G Compare and contrast a written story, drama, or poem to its audio, filmed, staged, or multimedia version, analyzing the effects of techniques unique to each medium (e.g. lighting, sound, color, or camera focus and angles in a film).

CC.1.3.7.H Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history.

CC.1.3.7.I Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade-level reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies and tools.

CC.1.3.7.J Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

CC.1.3.7.K Read and comprehend literary fiction on grade level, reading independently and proficiently.

CC.1.3.8.A Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.

CC.1.3.8.B Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences, conclusions, and/or generalizations drawn from the text.

CC.1.3.8.C Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.

CC.1.3.8.D Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.

CC.1.3.8.E Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.

CC.1.3.8.F Analyze the influence of the words and phrases in a text including figurative and connotative meanings and how they shape meaning and tone.

CC.1.3.8.G Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating the choices made by directors or actors.

CC.1.3.8.H Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from traditional works, including describing how the material is rendered new.

CC.1.3.8.I Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade-level reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies and tools.

CC.1.3.8.J Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

CC.1.3.8.K Read and comprehend literary fiction on grade level, reading independently and proficiently.

Course Materials

Course materials vary from semester to semester but include several class novels and reading guides that are provided by the instructor. Additional resources may include:
Independent reading books

- Laptop and internet access
- Access to Google Classroom
- Bookshare (for audio books)
- LightSail (for e-reading)
- Independent reading response logs or journals

Course Outline

Each quarter's outline looks as follows:

Weeks 1-8: Reading and Responding to Literature (75% of quarter grade)

- Students choose books from varying genres.
- Students respond verbally and in writing to a variety of texts..
- Students analyze characters.
- Students identify elements of plot.
- Students interpret figurative language.
- Students use context to define unknown words.
- Students make text-supported inferences and predictions.
- Students compare the text versions to the film versions.
- Students evaluate texts, identify themes, and study paired texts or materials.

Students are graded on their weekly participation (reading time and completion of classwork): 10 points per week.

Week 9: Synthesizing and Presenting (25% of quarter grade)

- Students choose one text read during the quarter.
- Students choose a choice project to create and share with the class.

Students are graded using a rubric: 100 points.