Language Arts 8th Grade
Course Overview

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Course Web Page: classroom.google.com

About the Course
Language Arts at Lincoln School is more than critical reading of fine literature and the development of written and verbal communication skills. It is more than just coming to class with your homework completed and participating in discussions: it is the education of the mind. According to the Irish poet William Butler Yeats, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." Education does not stop with the textbook or computer screen. It carries into everyday life. Not only that, it is something that should inspire the soul for future actions and deeds. This class will ask you to think, feel, do, discuss, react, share, listen, evaluate, create, reevaluate and publish. We will work together as well as individually to nurture an understanding of what it really means to be a scholar and a compassionate global citizen.

Course Structure
In eighth grade language arts, we will continue building upon the foundations we established in seventh grade language arts. We will examine short stories, fiction, non-fiction, poetry and graphic novels. Through analyzing literature in varied formats, students will learn to express themselves in writing, dialogue, and group conversation more fluently and effectively.

Class activities will be varied as they were in seventh grade. We will examine some reading selections as a whole class and also use literature circles to facilitate the study of literature in small groups.

Over the course of the year, students will work on short and long-term projects. In addition to more casual daily written assignments, students will be expected to compose multiple drafts of their own critical and creative writing.

Assessment
Students' progress is monitored through frequent formative assessments including daily written assignments, class participation, and quizzes covering essential comprehension and understanding of material. Final grades will be determined by summative assessments that include more formal assignments such as essays, long-term projects and presentations.

Students will be expected to read nightly for a minimum of twenty minutes. Our class schedule will allow for much of our long term writing and project work to be completed in class if students use their time efficiently and effectively.

Supplies
Students should bring to class daily:

- Their laptop devices
- Folders and notebooks
- Pencil Case – with pencils, black & blue pens, erasers, highlighters, colored pencils