

Parrottsville Elementary School



8th Grade ELA Syllabus

Part 1: Course Information

Instructor Information

Instructor: Alley Holt
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Aspen

Student grades and academic information are available throughout the year on Aspen.

Course Description

This course addresses Tennessee state standards and learning expectations of the TN Department of Education. Students will develop and demonstrate effective reading, language, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and problem-solving skills. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking skills such as evaluation, analysis, and synthesis. These skills are applied through research, independent reading, discussion, oral and creative interpretation, writing, small group cooperative learning, whole group discussion, and individual / group projects

Course Materials

Online Texts and Resources

- learning.amplify.com
- The Outsiders
- Quill.org
- Commonlit.org
- Newsela.com
- Readworks
- Google Classroom

Course Structure

- This class is a combination of lecture, discussion, and activity-based lessons.

Online Resources

- TN State Standards for ELA:

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/stateboardofeducation/documents/massivemeetingsfolder/meetingfiles4/10-20-17_III_J_NonSubstantive_Changes_to_Math_ELA_Science_Standards_Attachmet_2_-_ELA.pdf

- Cocke County Schools Website:

<http://www.cocke.k12.tn.us>

- Amplify

[Learning.amplify.com](https://www.learningamplify.com)

- Study Island

[Studyisland.com](https://www.studyisland.com)

Part 2: Student Learning Outcomes

- Student learning outcomes are listed in the table in Part 3 of the syllabus.
- As students master the standards, they will demonstrate independence; build strong content knowledge; respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose, and discipline; comprehend as well as critique; value evidence; use technology and digital media strategically and capably; and come to understand other perspectives and cultures.

Part 3: Topic Outline/Schedule

First Nine Weeks	<u>8A: Perspectives & Narratives</u>	4 weeks
	<u>8B: Liberty & Equality</u>	5 weeks
	<u>Narrative Writing</u>	
Second Nine Weeks	<u>8B: Liberty & Equality</u>	2 weeks
	<u>8C: Science & Science Fiction</u>	4 weeks
	<u>8E: Holocaust</u>	3 weeks
	<u>Informational Writing</u>	
Third Nine Weeks	<u>8D: Shakespeare</u>	5 weeks
	<u>8E: Space Collection</u>	4 weeks
	<u>Argumentative Writing</u>	
Fourth Nine Weeks	<u>Poetry in America</u>	1 week
	<u>The Outsiders</u>	6 weeks
	<u>TCAP testing</u>	

Part 4: Grading Policy

Graded Course Activities

1st 9 Weeks

Short stories

Amplify Vocabulary

Weekly Writing Assignment

Amplify Solo Activities

Amplify Writing Assignments

Unit Assessments

Narrative Writing Assignments

Various Daily Assignments and Tasks

2nd 9 Weeks

Amplify Vocabulary

Weekly Writing Assignment

Amplify Solo Activities

Amplify Writing Assignments

Unit Assessments

Informational Writing Assignments

Various Daily Assignments and Tasks

3rd 9 Weeks

Amplify Vocabulary

Weekly Writing Assignment

Amplify Solo Activities

Amplify Writing Assignments

Unit Assessments

Argumentative Writing Assignments

Various Daily Assignments and Tasks

4th 9 weeks

Amplify Vocabulary

Weekly Writing Assignment

Amplify Solo Activities

Amplify Writing Assignments

Unit Assessments

Writing Assignments

Various Daily Assignments and Tasks

Late Work Policy

Excused absences will allow the student three days to make up any missing work. It is the student's responsibility to ask each teacher for their missing work.

*Example: Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make up assignments or quizzes, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and instructor approval.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be weighted in this class. Below is the complete grading and weight scale.

A= 90-100

B= 80-89

C=70-79

D=60-69

F=0-59

Unit Tests 15%
Classwork 30%
Bellringer 10%
Books 15%
Writing 20%
Class Participation 10%

Viewing Grades in ASPEN (optional)

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the ASPEN GradeBook in a timely manner. Click on the My Grades link on the left navigation to view your points.

Part 5: Course Policies

Attend Class

Students are expected to attend all class sessions as listed on the course calendar.

Participate

Class participation is a very important part of the learning process in this course. Although not explicitly graded, you will be evaluated on the QUALITY of your participation and attendance.

We will use our assessment of your participation to manage borderline grades.

Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that they can help you find a solution. All grade level teachers are easily accessible on Remind.

Complete Assignments

Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from the instructor before the due date. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect the student's grade.

Incomplete Policy

Please refer to the Coker County School Board policy listed on the Coker County Schools Website

Academic Dishonesty Policy

1. Academic dishonesty includes such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism and helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty. It usually involves an attempt by a student to show possession of a level of knowledge or skill that he/she does not possess.
2. Teachers have the initial responsibility for detecting and dealing with academic dishonesty. Instructors who believe that an act of academic dishonesty has occurred are obligated to discuss the matter with the student(s) involved. Instructors should possess reasonable evidence of academic dishonesty. However, if circumstances prevent consultation with student(s), instructors may take whatever action (subject to student appeal) they deem appropriate.
3. Teachers who are convinced by the evidence that a student is guilty of academic dishonesty shall assign an appropriate academic penalty. If the teachers believe that the academic dishonesty reflects on the student's academic performance or the academic integrity in a course, the student's grade should be adversely affected. Suggested guidelines for appropriate actions are: an oral reprimand in cases where there is reasonable doubt that the student knew his/her action constituted academic dishonesty; a failing grade on the particular paper, project or examination where the act of dishonesty was unpremeditated, or where there were significant mitigating circumstances; a failing grade in the course where the dishonesty was premeditated or planned.

Student Testing Code of Ethics and Security

It is important for you as a student to know that the following guidelines are to be strictly followed. This year the TNReady test will count at least 10% of your final semester grade. Your work on this test is very important and it deserves your best effort.

I understand that during testing on the days of the assessment, I am responsible for:

- Not having any electronic devices on me or in my purse/backpack/pockets
 - o Including but not limited to cell phones, smart phones, smart watches, etc.
- during testing or during breaks.**

- o Best practice is for students to leave devices at home or in their lockers on the day of testing.
- o If I am caught with a device during testing or during breaks, my test may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 10% of my final semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.
- Trying my best on the test
 - o If I do not attempt to test (I give **no answers or randomly answer** questions) my test score may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 10% of my final semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.
 - o The testing administrators and proctors in the testing environment will determine if no answers or random answering is taking place.
 - o I will focus and put forth effort on the test.
- Being honest and not cheating
 - o If I am caught cheating (taking pictures of the test, writing down and passing answers, talking to other students, looking on other computers, using software outside the testing platform), my test may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 10% of my final semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.

Course policies are subject to change. Any changes will be posted on the website.