



9th and 10th Grade Comprehensive Language Arts Semester One: Syllabus

Instructors:

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Website:

A1: <http://lionsgateacademy.org/classes/language-arts/a1-comprehensive-language-arts/>
B3: <http://lionsgateacademy.org/classes/language-arts/b3-comprehensive-language-arts/>
B4: <http://lionsgateacademy.org/classes/language-arts/b4-comprehensive-language-arts/>

Course Overview: In this first semester of Comprehensive Language Arts students will learn and practice a writing process in various contexts. They will read and respond to a variety of literature including *Fahrenheit 451*. Finally, they will complete a research project on a topic of their choosing.

Course Objectives:

- Students will improve upon the organization of their ideas and mechanics in writing.
- Students will write and publish their writing in variety of formats, including digitally.
- Students will comprehend and analyze the ideas, characters, and context of the literature they read.

To access a complete list of the English Language Arts Standards for 9th and 10th grade go to <http://education.state.mn.us/mdeprod/groups/Standards/documents/LawStatute/018669.pdf>

Textbooks:

- *Literature* (9th and 10th Grade) Prentice Hall
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- Supplementary materials provided by teacher

School Policies:

Students are subject to all academic policies of the school as printed in the Lionsgate Academy Parent-Student Handbook. Furthermore, it is each student's responsibility to read and follow all academic policies of the school.

What happens if I miss a day?

It is your responsibility to check in with your teacher before, after or during a break in class to see if you missed any work.

What happens if I turn in work late?

There is normally no penalty for late work. However, I do reserve the right to lower points earned if student has exhibited a pattern of not working until the last minute. I also reserve the right to decline to give students make-up work that no longer serves an educational purpose.

What if I'm just having a bad day?

Everyone has bad days for various reasons – not enough sleep, stress at home or with friends, overwhelmed by work. You will be given one bad day pass at the beginning of each quarter. In order to use it, you must sign your name to indicate that you understand the rules of using your bad day pass, fill in the back side, and hand it to one of the teachers.

If you don't use your bad day pass one quarter, you may trade it in for a 10% increase in your points on one assignment.

Why is the person next to me working on something different than I am?

One of the reasons that Lionsgate is so much different than many other schools is that we really try to remember that “fair” doesn't always mean “the same”.

Every student has strengths and areas in which he/she may need to grow. That means that the person next to you may be doing something different than you. That's okay. It just means that we are working to give them assignments to help them grow whether it's to challenge them with a strength or help them grow in an area in which they struggle, and we are also trying to do the same for you.

How will my grade be calculated?

40% - Daily Work (May include tests or quizzes)

30% - Writing Assignments

10% - Silent Reading

10% - Participation

10% - Homework

Grading Percentage Distribution:

| Percentage | Grade |
|------------|----------------|
| 97% | A+ |
| 93% | A |
| 90% | A- |
| 87% | B+ |
| 83% | B |
| 80% | B- |
| 77% | C+ |
| 73% | C |
| 70% | C- |
| 67% | D+ |
| 63% | D |
| 60% | D- |
| Below 60% | I (Incomplete) |

Class Expectations:

I agree to the above expectations. _____

Class Tour Guide: Things to Know about Ms. Cushing's Classroom



- **Silent Reading:** Most classes will begin with silent reading. You will be expected to read a book or magazine of your choice during this time. You will log the pages you have read every day at the end of silent reading time and be asked to give yourself a score based on how well you did that day. On occasion, we will have class discussions about what you are reading.

- **The Line:** During silent reading, I will pass around a small white board with a line on it. You will be expected to write your name on the board to indicate how your day is going. A name at the top means that you are having the best day ever. A name at the bottom means that you are having the worst day ever. Most of the time, you'll be somewhere in the middle.
- **Warm-ups:** After silent reading, you will complete the warm-up in the appropriate place in your binder. Types of warm-ups will range from correcting grammatical errors or learning new vocabulary to writing short responses to prompts or questions.



- **Books:** I have lots of interesting books and I want you to read them. However, please respect that I have spent a lot of my own money on them and put them away after you use them. If you want to use them for longer than the class period, you must check them out. Also, you may only use them during silent reading or when you have finished all of your daily work.
- **Binders:** Your class binder should stay in the room for grading. If you need to take work home, please take the work out of the binder and take it home with you in your own folder. Return it to the binder when you bring it back unless otherwise directed.



- **Nooks and ipad:** I have an ipad for use in class during silent reading or after your work has been completed. Two Nooks have also been purchased through the use of donated funds. However, the ipad belongs to Ms. Cushing. Only Ms. Cushing can download new apps or ebooks to these devices. Treat them with respect so that they can be used for years to come.
- **Exit Slips:** On most days, I will give you the opportunity to turn in an exit slip. Usually his will only involve one or a couple of short questions that are quick to answer. If your answer is valid, it will qualify you for a drawing at the end of each quarter. There will be one winner every quarter for each class period who will be able to choose from a variety of fun prizes. The winner fourth quarter will be able to order a t-shirt from the t-shirt catalog.