

English/Language Arts for 6th-8th

2024-2025 Session 4, Mondays/Wednesdays

Instructor: Melanie Ware

Contact: melanie@onesparkacademy.com

Course Objective:

This course will provide learners a solid overview and practice of effective reading, writing, and communication skills. Although varied levels are expected, students should be adept at basic mechanics and read proficiently at or above a 6th grade level. (Or, plan to reread/review all reading assignments weekly). *Scholastic SCOPE* and/or *Junior Scholastic* magazines will be used (provided with online access and/or hard copies). The reading for session 1 will include mostly expository articles, although **students must have an independent novel**. A study of various types of writing will be explored and discussed; students will share and constructively critique each other's writing. By the end of the year, students will have completed 2-3 final draft essays. **Focus in Session 4 will be creative writing. Independent work is expected** (on average, two hours per week with nightly independent reading expected).

Course Expectations:

- Attend all classes or let me know before class if you know you will be absent.
- Arrive on time and prepared to provide your best effort daily.
- Keep up with **independent reading** of a novel of choice (reading check-ins weekly).
- Be willing to discuss/share your work and assess your own progress.
- Complete your reading and writing assignments. **Check in on Google Classroom regularly.**
- Materials needed: Spiral notebook, folder, highlighter, and pencil/pen.

Syllabus:

*Sharing, poem and story discussion, peer review, and collaboration will be ongoing. Grammar, vocabulary and spelling will be practiced weekly. **The following syllabus is a GENERAL framework only**; class focus will adjust per students' needs, interests, and depth of articles.*

Week #1, 3/31 and 4/2

Welcome back! This week we discuss the various ways in which we tell stories, from photographs to stand up comedy. We will also review basic elements of a story, like characters, setting and plot.

Week #2, 4/7 and 4/9

Memoir and personal essays will be introduced through examples, discussion and writing assignments. Students will brainstorm important times in their life and what means most to them.

Week #3, 4/14 and 4/16

Students will continue working on their memoir assignments and turn in a final draft. Review of types of figurative language and sensory details. Grammar activity as well as a creative rewrite of a story focused on creating a specific mood.

Week #4, 4/28 and 4/30

Historical fiction will be introduced through examples, discussion and writing assignments. We will look at primary documents. Students will decide on a specific time period and begin writing a piece of historical fiction.

Week #5, 5/5 and 5/7

Peer reviewing and editing of Historical Fiction rough draft will take place. Final Book Talk.

Week #6, 5/12 and 5/14

Final draft of Historical Fiction due. Begin discussing different types of poetic form and reviewing elements of a poem. Poems will focus on nature and “things.”

Week #7, 5/19 and 5/21

Continue writing poems. Students will begin brainstorming a creative representation of one of their assignments. (Eighth graders will write a “graduation” speech/reflection.)

Week #8, 5/28

Last week of school! Sharing of final creative project!