

6th Grade English Language Arts



This will be a very unusual year. Please keep in mind that the details listed here might have to change based on the needs of our students and the way that the school year unfolds.

Syllabus

<p>Essay due dates: <i>Essays are worth 20% of the quarterly grade!</i></p>		<p>Homework: We read a book each quarter of the school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are expected to keep up with the chapters that we read each week. • There will be an assignment every week with questions and vocabulary words from the chapters that we are reading that week. Students will have some time in class to complete those questions, but any work that they don't finish during class must be completed before the quiz that we take each week. • The purpose of the assignments is to help students study for the quizzes. The more thoroughly students complete the questions, the better prepared they'll be for that week's quiz. 									
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<p>Quizzes/Tests: We will take a quiz <i>almost</i> every Thursday. Quizzes will cover the meanings of vocabulary words, the spelling of vocabulary words, and knowledge of important details from the chapters that we have read that week.</p>											

TEXTBOOKS & ACADEMIC RESOURCES:

- ★ Quarter One: **Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen.
- ★ Quarter Two: **Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott** by Russell Freedman.
- ★ Quarter Three: **The Lightning Thief** by Rick Riordan.

· Digital media provided on each student's tablet.

- ★ **Clever.com** is our district's digital portal to academic resources.
- ★ **StudySync** curriculum by Prentice Hall. Accessible via Clever.
- ★ **Google Classroom.**
- ★ <https://game.ClassCraft.com> student participation and rewards/consequences tracker. Students can log in with their school-provided Google accounts.

· Additional materials provided by the teacher.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Students need to have these items with them every day, and they will lose points in ClassCraft if they are unprepared.

- I. Their school-assigned computer **tablet and CHARGER**.
- II. A **three-ring binder (or similar organizer)** in which to keep hardcopies of their work and notes.
- III. A blue or black **pen**.
- IV. Two sharpened, number two **pencils** (or mechanical pencils).
- V. White, wide-ruled **paper**.
- VI. Their school-issued **planner** to keep track of assignments and important dates.

GRADES:

The following areas will make up the student's total grade.

Classwork/Homework	= 40%
Tests & Quizzes	= 40%
Projects/Essays	= 20%

(For the first quarter of this school year, we will forgo an essay in order to focus on grammar skills that might have gotten a bit rusty over the past year of online learning. We will also try to improve students' keyboarding/typing skills. Hopefully, this will serve as a less-stressful re-entry to in-person classes for the students. As a result, classwork and assessments will make up the entire grade for the first quarter.)

MAKEUP WORK:

- 1.) Always contact the teacher (email is the best method), or a classmate when you need to find out about missed assignments, or need help completing them. Most assignments will be posted in Google Classroom, so check there first.
- 2.) Students are responsible for arranging makeup tests & quizzes with the teacher. Make sure that you speak with Mr. Gadd when you know that you need to make up a quiz or test. We take a quiz almost every week.
- 3.) Most assignments can be turned in via Google Classroom or StudySync, even if you can't be present in the classroom on the day when the assignment is due. If you still aren't able to turn in an assignment on time, please contact Mr. Gadd directly.

CONTACTING THE TEACHER:

Parents and students can always reach Mr. Gadd at the email listed at the top of this syllabus. In addition, Mr. Gadd will send out periodic updates through the Remind service <https://www.remind.com> . The sign-up information for your class is located on my teacher website at <https://MrGadd.net> .

CLASSROOM RULES:

West Contra Costa Unified Schools have adopted the PBIS model, and students will be rewarded when they exemplify positive behaviors. We will cover PBIS in more detail, but the basic rules are:

- 1.) Be kind.
- 2.) Be responsible.
- 3.) Be safe.

CHEATING/PLAGIARISM:

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing work will automatically be given a failing grade on that assignment or test, and they will not be given an opportunity to make up that work. Their parents will be contacted about the incident, and a referral will be sent to their counselor in the office. Hercules Middle School does not tolerate cheating or plagiarism.