**Language Arts 6: Course Outline**

**Teacher**: Mr. Locke

**Classroom**: 312

**Overview:** This year we will be working to improve both your writing skills as well as your reading skills. Our Language Arts class will focus on developing/improving the following:

* **Appreciation for literacy .**
* **Writing and text-type studies (News articles, letters, short stories, genres and poetry).**
* **Communicating effectively through a variety of different ways (written, visual representations, oral and dramatic presentations).**
* **Strategies for increasing Reading Comprehension (understanding what you have read).**
* **Grammar, spelling and vocabulary.**

**Note**: There will be some overlap between Social Studies and L.A as these two disciplines complement one another quite well. For example we will be applying our reading skills while reading news articles that deal with the current events we are following in Social Studies.

**Message:** Language Arts is meant to empower the student by helping them develop the knowledge necessary to discover, comprehend and question a world of ideas, stories and beauty.

**Course Outline**

Each class will begin with 5-10 min of silent reading or creative writing before moving on to our lesson. It is very important that you bring your library book and writing supplies each class.

Each unit will also focus on a different literacy strategy to help us become stronger readers as well as at least one writing assignment to help us become better writers.

**Unit 1: The Importance of Literacy**

**Reading Strategy:** Self-Monitoring (Keeping track of your own understanding).

**Key Questions:**

-What is *literacy* and why is it important?

-What is a *genre* and how do I find a “good fit” book?

-What makes a sentence complete?

**Writing Assignments***: Friendly Letter of Introduction My Book List*

**Vocabulary:** literacy, genre, nouns, adjectives, contractions.

**Unit 2: Short Stories**

**Reading Strategies:** Visualizing and engaging our imaginations

**Key Questions:**

-What are the key parts to a short story?

-How are short stories different from other types of writing?

-How can we plan, write, revise and share our own short stories?

-What is figurative language?

**Writing Assignment***: Spooky Story*

**Vocabulary:** narrator, plot, conflict, resolution, characterization(round, flat, static, dynamic), idiom, simile, metaphor, verbs synonyms/antonyms.

**Unit 3: Book Club "When Disaster Strikes"**

**Reading Strategy:** Making connections to characters and text.

**Key Questions:**

-How can making connections between our lives and those of characters make us better readers and writers?

-How can we best prepare ourselves for emergencies?

**Writing Assignments:** *Remembrance Day Letter to a Veteran, Disaster Plan & Kit*

**Vocabulary:** natural disaster, man-made disaster, personification, hyperbole, adverbs, homonyms (homophones/homographs).

**Unit 4: Investigative Journalism**

**Reading Strategy:** Making predictions and inferences

**Key Questions:**

-How are articles different from stories?

**-**How can we plan, research, write and revise professional articles?

-What is a prediction? Inference? How are they different?

-How does making predictions and inferences help us understand readings?

**Writing Assignments***: News Article and Informative Article*

**Vocabulary:** prediction, inference, RAFTS, research, journalism, plagiarism, reliable source, prefix, suffix.

**Unit 5: Poetry and Mythology**

**Reading Strategy:** Analyzing

**Key Questions:**

-How is poetry different from all other types of writing?

- How do poets use *figurative devices* for effect in poetry?

-What does it mean *to analyze* something? How can we apply it to poetry?

-What is the purpose of myths/mythology?

-What technology can we use to create our own myth?

**Writing Assignments***: Poetry Anthology and Creature Card*

**Vocabulary:** stanza, couplet, rhyme, rhythm, alliteration, oxymoron, onomatopoeia, connotation, imagery, symbolism.

**Unit 6: Book Club “Mission Space”**

**Reading Strategy:** Evaluating & sequencing

**Key Questions:**

-What are the characteristics of the *science fiction* genre?

-How can we use a timeline to put events in order?

-How does *sequencing* help us better understand what we are reading?

-What technology can we use to create our own graphic novel?

**Writing Assignment***: Science Fiction Graphic Novel*

**Vocabulary:** sequence, timeline, chronological, science fiction.

**Grading Breakdown**

Term 1= 26.6%

Term 2= 26.6%

Term 3= 26.6%

Final Exam (Part A&B)= 20%