

## **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE OUTLINE**

**The titles in this outline are recommended only. Any literature located in the grade-appropriate adopted textbook is suitable. If the teacher decides to teach something other than what is in this outline or in the grade-appropriate adopted textbook, it is his/her responsibility to make sure that the alternative selection is NOT being taught at another grade level and that it has been approved by the principal.**

### **SEMESTER I**

#### **I. Literature**

##### A. Novels

i. *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros  
(suggested/optional)

ii. Accelerated Reader books

##### B. Poetry (All titles optional – any poem from the adopted textbook is appropriate)

i. “A Time to Talk”

ii. “Oranges”

iii. “If I Can Stop One Heart From Breaking”

iv. “The Courage That My Mother Had”

v. “The Secret Heart”

vi. “Paul Revere’s Ride”

vii. “Casey at the Bat”

viii. “O Captain! My Captain!”

ix. “The Naming of Cats”

x. “The Listeners”

##### C. Drama / Grade-Level-Appropriate Literary Text

i. *The Diary of Anne Frank*

##### D. Teleplay (Title optional)

i. “Let Me Hear You Whisper”

##### E. Idioms and Comparisons

##### F. ISTEP review

#### **II. Writing / Grammar**

##### A. Research Paper

##### B. Five step writing process

##### C. Book Review

##### D. Sentence Structure

i. Simple Sentences

ii. Compound Sentences

iii. Complex Sentences

iv. Compound-Complex Sentences

v. Subordination

vi. Coordination

- vii. Noun phrases that function as adjectives
- E. Punctuation
- F. Capitalization
- G. Spelling
- H. ISTEP review

### **III. Communication / Listening and Speaking**

- A. Descriptive presentations
- B. Research presentations
- C. Oral responses to literature

## **SEMESTER II**

### **I. Literature**

- A. Novel
  - i. *Nothing but the Truth* by Avi (suggested/optional)
  - ii. *Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* by Ernest J. Gaines (suggested/optional)
  - iii. Accelerated Reader books
  - iv. Mood, tone, and meaning of a text
  - v. Recurring themes
- B. Nonfiction
  - i. Informational text
  - ii. Technical materials
  - iii. Nonfiction book report
- C. Analogies and Idioms
- D. Accelerated Reader Books
- E. Short Stories (Stories listed are suggested/optional)
  - i. "Flowers for Algernon"
  - ii. "Raymond's Run"
  - iii. "Too Soon a Woman"
  - iv. "The Circuit"
  - v. "Three Wise Guys"
  - vi. "The Treasure of Lemon Brown"
  - vii. "The Open Window"

### **II. Writing / Grammar**

- A. Grammar
  - i. Infinitives
  - ii. Participles
- B. Sentence Structure
  - i. Parallelism
- C. Applications
  - i. Write biographies

- ii. Write autobiographies
- iii. Write short stories
- iv. Persuasive writing
- D. Processes
  - i. Five step writing process

### **III. Communication / Listening and Speaking**

- A. Speaking Applications
  - i. Persuasive presentations
- B. Analyze and Evaluate Oral and Media Communications
  - i. Commercial video
  - ii. Magazines
- C. Oral Communication
  - i. Short story presentations
- D. Comprehension
  - i. Peer evaluations of presentations
- E. Book Review
- F. *Nothing but the Truth* Group Lesson / Presentation