

## **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE 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 Giver* by Lois Lowry (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!”
- C. Drama / Grade-Level-Appropriate Literary Text
  - i. *The Diary of Anne Frank*
- D. Idioms and Comparisons
- E. 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. Accelerated Reader books
- B. Mood, tone and meaning of a text
- C. Recurring themes
- D. Nonfiction
  - i. Informational text
  - ii. Technical materials
  - iii. Nonfiction book report
- E. Analogies and Idioms
- F. Accelerated Reader Books
- G. 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"

### **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