

## Language Arts 8 2007-2008

Anna Howell

Welcome to Language Arts. I am excited to have you as a student. I hope we can work together to make this a class that is as enjoyable as it is educational.

### Basic Course Description

This course is designed to integrate literature, grammar, writing, and language usage as a mean of comprehending and analyzing universal human experiences and various cultures. Reflective and critical writing opportunities will be a central part of this process. Ultimately the purpose of this course is to enhance each student's awareness of literature and literacy as a pleasurable and crucial aspect of life. Each student will be able to advance his or her skills as a writer, as a researcher, and as a public speaker.

Grammar and mechanics skills will be taught using a four week introduction to concepts and then Daily Grammar Practice. We will cover: parts of speech; parts of a sentence and phrases; clauses and sentence types; and punctuation and capitalization. **Grammar will be assessed through biweekly quizzes.**

Vocabulary will be predominantly self-taught on a weekly basis through the use of the workbook titled Wordly Wise. Students will be expected to complete one lesson every other week through homework and practice exercises.

**Vocabulary will be assessed along with grammar in your biweekly quizzes.** Vocabulary will also be integrated with novel and short story studies.

Throughout the semester, students will work on writing projects which they will turn in bi-weekly. Those writing projects will be the basis of their culminating activity, a "Reader's Digest," which will be a portrait of all their writing for the semester. **Each writing assignment will be graded as a project.**

Independent reading will be a regular part of our classroom. **Every student is required to read 50 pages of independent reading by Friday.** Students will be expected to bring a book to class on Friday. Fridays will be designated as quiz and reading days with at least 20 minutes spent in sustained, silent reading.

Literature will be an important part of this year. Most of the literature will be taken from the student's textbook The Language of Literature. **Students' reading comprehension will be assessed through writing projects and comprehension handouts.** In addition to short stories from the Literature book, we will do novel studies.

### Classroom Discipline Policy

*"For the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, and chastises every child whom he accepts." Heb. 12:6*

My classroom, like most others, has some rules that are to be constantly followed and will be strictly enforced. The following is the policy of my classroom:

1. **Be Obedient:** A. Follow directions as soon as told by the teacher. B. Follow all school rules
2. **Be Respectful:** A. Do not talk while someone else is talking. B. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
3. **Be Responsible:** A. Bring required materials to class every day. B. **Be in your seat and prepared each day**

### Consequences

The following are consequences that will be applied if a student chooses not to obey the rules, which I expect to be rarely: in-class warning; a parent contact; teacher detention; principal referral. The teacher retains the right to send a student straight to the principal in a situation of severe behavior.

### Tardy Policy

In my classroom, a student is tardy if his or her bottom is not in his/her seat when the bell ***begins*** ringing. If you are more than 10 minutes late to my class, GAC and I consider you AWOL.

### Great Expectations

I expect great things from all of my students, academically and behaviorally. I have found that it is best if I tell students what it is I expect right up front. The following is a list of behaviors that I expect in my classroom:

- I expect each student to be actively involved during each class period – that means no sleeping. I expect each student to listen if I am teaching during the class period. Comments or questions should be made respectfully when no one else is talking.
- I encourage the open discussion of ideas. I expect each student to be respectful of his or her classmates during discussion. No rude remarks, racial slurs, or lude comments should be made, and no one should talk while a class member is talking. **Government ideas are challenging and diverse and the classroom is an excellent environment for discussion of all sides of issues. Students should keep an open mind, be willing to listen, and be willing to contribute.** I will often play “devil’s advocate” and challenge students’ thoughts and ideas
- I expect each student to turn in all work on time and completely finished. Partially completed work is not accepted. **Participation in school field trips or sports events does not give the student the right to turn work in late.** All work should be put in Mrs. Howell’s box ahead of schedule if the student will be absent for a school sponsored event.
- **I expect each student to be prepared for each class period.** ALL of your Language Arts texts and workbooks, your Language Arts notebook, and a writing utensil, is required in class each day.
- I expect a good attitude at all times.
- I expect the GACS dress code to be followed. Any student not in dress code will be written up to Coach Thames. You are expected to be in dress code on campus from the time you arrive at school until 3:30 PM.

### **Grading**

Grades in this class are given on a point system. Your final grade represents the percentage of points earned out of the total possible points.

**Make up work is the student’s responsibility** and is accepted only in the case of excused absences as stated in the GACS handbook. **Make up tests must be taken by the Friday immediately following the missed test.**

The following are the ways in which a student will be graded in my class throughout the school year.

- Tests:** a cumulative test will be given every six weeks.
- Quizzes:** quizzes will be given biweekly.
- Notebook:** each student should have a three ring “binder” notebook **for this class only**. The notebook will be graded at the end of a six week period. There should be divided sections for the following: (1) Grammar (2) Responses (3) Literature (4) Writing and (5) Tests and quizzes.
- Projects:** information will be given, in writing, throughout the semester regarding projects. Writing assignments will likely fall under this category.
- Homework:** The use of net classroom is mandatory. However, your homework will also be written on the board each day. **LATE HOMEWORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- Culminating Activity/Exam:** there will be a culminating activity at the end of first semester which will count as 10% of your semester grade, and there will be a cumulative, comprehensive exam at the end of the second semester which will also count as 10% of the spring semester grade.

### **Help Sessions**

Help sessions should be scheduled with Mrs. Howell according to each student’s need. Please contact me after class, by email or by telephone, as soon as we have covered a concept that you are struggling with.

### **The Honor Code**

**In order to maintain honor in our relationships, we all agree to do what is *right*, to speak the *truth*, and to strive for *integrity* in all that we do. Therefore, we will not be involved in *lying*, *cheating*, or *stealing*. If we do vary from this path of honor, we will accept the correction from others and the established consequences of this school. *Honor* is a goal that we seek to attain.**

### **Conclusion**

I am excited about this school year. I know it will be great if we work together. If there is anything I can do for you, you may contact me by using the following channels:

Email address: ahowell@greateratlantachristian.org  
Home phone: 678 489 3769 – No calls after 8 PM, please!

**THIS SYLLABUS MUST ALWAYS APPEAR IN THE FRONT OF YOUR NOTEBOOK**