

ALLEGANY-LIMESTONE MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL



3131 Five Mile Rd.
Allegany, New York 14706

Exploring Literature Course Syllabus School year: 2024-2025

Course Instructors:

Mrs. Ballard
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Course Description for Exploring Literature: This course has been designed to help enrich student reading by building comprehension and critical thinking skills. Students will read 4 different texts throughout the course of the year (one book per marking period). These texts were selected to challenge students beyond the basic skills of reading fluency and vocabulary. Though the texts are challenging, they were selected because of their ability to engage the reader. This class will include a lot of in-class dialogue that will ensure students comprehend what they read and apply what they comprehend to new learning situations.

Texts (all provided for students):

- Book Scavenger, by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman
- Eleven by Tom Rodgers
- Flipped, by Wendelin Van Draanen
- Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor
- The House on Mango Street, by Sandra Cisneros
- The Running Dream, by Wendelin Van Draanen
- Trouble, by Gary D. Schmidt
- True Grit by Charles Portis
- Unbroken, by Laura Hillenbrand

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. By the end of the year, students will be able to read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.
2. Students will develop personal, cultural, textual, and thematic connections within and across genres as they respond to texts through written, digital, and oral presentations, employing a variety of media and genres.
3. Students will create and present a text or artwork in response to a literary work.
 - a. Develop a perspective or theme supported by relevant details.
 - b. Recognize and illustrate social, historical, and cultural features in the presentation of literary texts.
 - c. Create poetry, stories, plays, and other literary forms (e.g. videos, artwork).

Grading:

As this is an enrichment class, students will not receive a numerical grade. Instead, they will receive comments on their progress reports and quarterly report cards.

Class Community & Expectations of Students:

1. Arrive to class on time.
2. Phones must be put away during class unless used for a class assignment.
3. Be prepared with your materials each day.
4. Take good notes.
5. Pay attention and listen to the speaker(s).
6. Be respectful of others.
7. Always give your best effort.