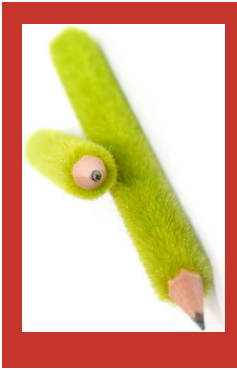


# READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

2009-2010



## Course Syllabus

Being a good reader goes hand-in-hand with being a good writer. Learning correct grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and how to write in certain genres will help you to understand the books you will be reading, both in my class and in other subjects. In this class, you will learn different writing styles and techniques; however, our focus in sixth grade will be expository writing. In this academic year, you will learn many new things and I will help to make this experience as exciting and educational as possible!

**Ms. Mininger, Turquoise Team, Rm. 125**  
**Scofield Magnet Middle School**  
**641 Scofieldtown Road**  
**1-203-977-2750**  
[jmininger@ci.stamford.ct.us](mailto:jmininger@ci.stamford.ct.us)

### Overview

The focus in Reading and Language Arts will center on the following guiding questions:

- How do we understand what we read?
- How does literature enrich our lives?
- How do we write, speak and present effectively?
- How do we use the English language appropriately to speak and write?

### Specific Course Objectives

- Reading – pre-reading strategies such as prior knowledge, self-questioning, and predicting; strategies to clarify meaning such as rereading, paraphrasing and summarizing; graphic organizers and author's purpose.
- Writing/Language – types of sentences, punctuation of types of sentences, parts of speech, and vocabulary development. We tackle grammar through activities such as Fun Fridays, the Comma & Apostrophe Project and mini-lessons.
- Research Skills - summarizing, paraphrasing, citing sources, and avoiding plagiarism.
- Listening, Viewing, Speaking – using listening skills such as paraphrasing, summarizing, and asking questions.
- Literature – story elements of plot, setting, character, events, problem, resolution, theme; identifying author's point-of-view in writing.

**Extra Credit**

Some assignments and projects may have extra credit opportunities built into them. You are encouraged to attempt all extra credit offered. Rubrics for larger assignments and projects will be assessed with specific instructions on how to exceed the standards and earn full and/or extra points. I *will not* assign additional extra credit just to pull up a grade or make-up for missed work during the grading period.

**Homework Policy**

You will be expected to read for **30 minutes** every night. You will be given a calendar at the beginning of every month where you will record the amount of time spent reading each night and have it signed by a parent/guardian at the end of every week. **This calendar will count as a substantial part of your grade so make sure you return it in a timely manner!** Incompletes will not be given. If you miss an assignment due to an absence, a grade of zero will be averaged in the place of that grade **until** you make up the work within a certain length of time. All pre-assigned work will be due on the day of your return from an absence.

**Missing Work Policy and Late Work Policy**

No more than one (1) grade of zero (0) should be assigned during a grading period unless a parent contact is made. A parent will be contacted each time a grade of zero (0) is assigned after the first zero (0). **It is not acceptable for a student to not complete assignments.**

**Grading Policy**

Grades are calculated by the amount of points accumulated in a specific marking period out of the total amount of points. For example - if the total amount of points you received were 55 out the total of 60 points available (55/60), your grade would be 91.6, or an "A".

**Student Responsibilities**

It is *your responsibility* to come to class everyday prepared! This means having the necessary materials and a positive, respectful attitude. If you need help, be sure to come to me as soon as you have a problem and I will work with you.

After reading this with your parent/guardian, please sign, tear off strip and return by September 4, 2009.

-----

Student name (print please): \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_