

8th Grade English
Saint Mark Lutheran School
Kaneohe, Hawaii

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Synopsis: The gift of a spoken and written language sets humans apart from other animals. The study of English encompasses many distinct elements: literature, writing, spelling & vocabulary, and grammar. In our effort to become excellent communicators this year we will be doing all of these, but not necessarily every day.

In **literature**, we will read and discuss a variety of styles together in class, including short stories, poetry, and several novels. These will be the basis for class discussions related to content and structure. You will also be expected to do independent reading to reach your quarterly Accelerated Reader point goal.

Writing will be done in many different formats. There will be informal creative writing and journal entries, time spent on paragraphs and essays, and opportunity to write poetry, letters, speeches, and book reports. We will also do a research paper. Think of writing as the logical response to reading.

The mechanics of Language Arts are **spelling, vocabulary, and grammar**. There will be regular assignments in Shurley that are useful for helping you improve your reading and writing skills.

Materials needed:

Shurley English textbook (provided - must be covered always)

Composition book for journaling

Pens, pencils, blank paper

Access to AR books for individual reading--must be brought to class daily

Grading: Percentages convert to letter grades as specified in the Saint Mark parent/student handbook. Your grade is based on Shurley homework and tests, writing (formal and informal), Accelerated Reader points, the quarter's project, novels, and/or research paper, and preparation/participation.

What to expect for homework:

Shurley: we will work with this almost every day; much will be done in class but assigned work may need to be finished at home (homework!)

Writing: journaling will be a very regular class warm up; essays and book reports will be experienced regularly. Quarterly you will present your writing in the form of a speech.

Novels/Research Paper: each quarter we will tackle one or more larger projects with regular assignments given which will require outside work