Writing:

We will write at least 2 essays a quarter and there will be additional writing assignments throughout. Essays require revision and multiple drafts. All essays can be revised until the student has created an excellent (A) paper—it is an option to help show mastery in writing and improve a letter grade.

Grammar

* We cover all language standards using Gravana: an online and paper delivered grammar system.

Vocabulary and Spelling

We actively work to improve the experience with using words: both with spelling them and building our vocabulary. Every other Friday we will have a quiz either over spelling words or vocabulary words.

Independent Reading

Each quarter the students are required to read 1 book independently—outside of my class. We will keep track of independent reading on Friday, and students will be required to do 1 book talk with the teacher to meet the independent reading requirement.

Unit 1-Coming of Age

* Coming of Age Texts (found in Springboard)
* Interview Techniques
* Interview Narrative
* Independent Novels: Coming of Age Novels
* Argumentative writing & rhetorical Appeals
* Great Speeches: Persuasive Speeches analysis and Oral Interpretation
* Argumentative Essay

Unit 2-Short Stories and Style Analysis

* Short Story Introduction
* Parts of a Short Story
* Analyzing Short Stories:
  + “Cask of Amontillado”
  + “Stolen Party”
  + “The Gift of the Magi”
  + “Scarlet Ibis”
  + “The Raven”
  + “The Tell Tale Heart”
* Essay: Setting and Mood Style Analysis over “Scarlet Ibis”
* Writing a Short Story
* Film Analysis
  + Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (partial)
  + Up (clip)
  + Corpse Bride (clip)
  + Edward Scissorhands (all)
  + Big Fish (all)
* Style Analysis Essay

Unit 3: Coming of Age in Changing Times

* Historical Investigation Research project and presentation
* To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
* Writing a Literary Analysis Essay
* Literature Circle novels themed about Civil Rights.

Unit 4: Exploring Poetic Voices

* Poetry Forms & Structures
* Creating a Poetry Anthology
* Poems Written
  + World Poster with sensory details poem
  + Podcast with Ode
  + Catalog Poem with Allusion
  + I AM – metaphor and symbolism
  + Sonnet
* “Witness” by Karen Hesse
* Analyzing and presenting a poet

Multi-Cultural Unit

* House on Mango Street
* Flowers for Algernon
* Does My Head Look Big in This
* The Skin I’m In
* The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
* Other lit circle books from different perspectives.

Unit 5: Coming of Age on Stage: Romeo and Juliet

* Shakespeare Info and background
  + Shakespeare in the Classroom DVD and worksheet
  + Drama and Tragedy Elements
  + Tragic Hero
  + Tragic Dilemma
* Plan a Wedding
* Presenting a Dramatic Interpretation
* Writing a Synthesis Argument
* Persuasive Essay: Who is responsible for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet

Redo Policy

* Students should redo work if it is not 85% or higher.
* Redo’s must be completed 1 week after work is handed back.
* Redos are the *student’s* responsibility.
* Teachers may require evidence of further learning before allowing a redo.
* The week before quarter and semester grades, redos will be graded at the teacher’s discretion.
* Students must request a redo, and teachers may deny that request.