

# College Preparatory & Honors English 8: "A Search for Justice"



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As students continue their study of literature it is important for them to recognize how their actions impact those around them; thus, eighth grade English has the theme "A Search for Justice." The focus of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, is to continue to build skills and study habits that will appropriately prepare your student for success in high school and beyond.

This is a time when students should show independence and advocate for themselves self in and out of the classroom as well as advocating for those who may not be able to advocate for themselves. As such, the literature explores these ideas as well. Students will

read a variety of literary selections including works from the grade level reading list, pieces from *Literature and Language Arts Second Course* (Holt Rinehart Winston), and various poetry, nonfiction, and expository texts. Reading both fiction and nonfiction, students will work to analyze and discover meaning as they continue to develop writing, listening, speaking, and thinking skills to ensure understanding, application, and appreciation. Writing types are common core-based and focus on explanatory writing, argumentative writing, and narrative writing.

Below you will find a more detailed reading list and specific skills that we will focus on for this year.

Reading List for English 8	Skills Focus for English 8
<p>Students will read from the following text selections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee</li> <li>✓ <i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i> by Mildred D. Taylor</li> <li>✓ <i>Call of the Wild</i> by Jack London</li> <li>✓ <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak</li> <li>✓ <i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> by Anne Frank</li> <li>✓ <i>Twelfth Night</i> by William Shakespeare</li> <li>✓ <i>Merchant of Venice</i> by William Shakespeare</li> <li>✓ <i>The Diary of Anne Frank (play)</i>, Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett</li> <li>✓ <i>Flowers for Algernon</i>, Daniel Keyes</li> <li>✓ "The Tell-Tale Heart" Edgar Allan Poe</li> <li>✓ "The Landlady" by Roald Dahl</li> <li>✓ "Broken Chain" by Gary Soto</li> <li>✓ "Raymond's Run" by Toni Cade Bambara</li> <li>✓ "Treasure of Lemon Brown" by Walter Dean Myers</li> <li>✓ "Ribbons" by Laurence Yep</li> <li>✓ Various, current nonfiction texts</li> </ul>	<p>All students will work towards mastery in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Writing a traditional 5-paragraph essay</li> <li>✓ Understanding the function of a thesis statement in expository writing.</li> <li>✓ Writing insightful and well developed paragraphs using evidence to support the claim.</li> <li>✓ Incorporating sophisticated vocabulary and style into writing.</li> <li>✓ Reading for both pleasure as well as careful analysis.</li> <li>✓ Defining of the most common literary techniques and terms and identify examples of them.</li> <li>✓ Finding and correct proofreading errors in their own rough drafts.</li> <li>✓ Discovering the theme, symbolism, and other literary devices in a piece of writing.</li> <li>✓ Using effective study skills, note-taking, annotating.</li> </ul> <p><i>*If you have questions about English levels, please see our department website for more information at</i></p>

