

## SYLLABUS 2009-2010

### ENGLISH: Grade 8

**Texts:** *The Language of Literature* by McDougal Littell, Grade 8  
*Language Network, Grammar, Writing, Communication*  
by McDougal Littell, Grade 8  
*Language Network, Grammar, usage, and mechanics Workbook*  
by McDougal Littell, Grade 8  
*Vocabulary for Achievement, Second Course* by Richek, et al.

**Novels:** *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton  
*Johnny Tremain* by Ester Forbes  
*How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found* by Sara Nickerson  
*Soldier X* by Don Wulffson  
If time permits, movies will be an adjunct to some of the readings.

### FIRST QUARTER

- **Introduction**
- **Novel:** *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
- **Reading:** Unit One: Insights  
Short Stories:  
“Charles” by Shirley Jackson: Strategies for Reading Model  
“Raymond’s Run” by Toni Cade Bambara  
“The Ransom of Red Chief” by O. Henry
- **Writing:** Paragraph Development
- **Grammar:** The Sentence and Its Parts: Chapter 1, Lessons 1-10
- **Vocabulary:** Lessons 1-4
- **TEST:** Summer Reading (Date to be announced)
- **EXAM: FIRST QUARTER**

### SECOND QUARTER

- **Novel:** *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes
- **Reading:** Unit One: Insights continued  
Short Story: “The King of Mazy May” by Jack London  
Unit Two: Rising to the Challenge  
Poetry: “Mother to Son” by Langston Hughes  
“Speech to the Young” by Gwendolyn Brooks  
“I stepped from Plank to Plank” by Emily Dickinson  
“Child on Top of a Greenhouse” by Theodore Roethke
- **Writing:** Paragraph Development continued
- **Grammar:** Nouns: Chapter 2, Lessons 1-6
- **Vocabulary:** Lessons 5-8
- **EXAM: MIDTERM**

### **THIRD QUARTER**

- **Novel:** *How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found*  
by Sara Nickerson
- **Reading:** Unit Three: The Human Spirit  
Short Story: "Rules of the Game" by Anya Tan  
Movie: *Searching for Bobby Fisher*  
Poetry: "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost  
Unit Six: Tales from Americas  
The Oral Tradition: "Aunty Misery" retold by Judith Ortiz Cofer  
"Pandora's Box" retold by Louis Untermeyer
- **Writing:** Paragraph Development continued
- **Grammar:** Pronouns: Chapter 3, Lessons 1-10
- **Vocabulary:** Lessons 9-12
- **EXAM: THIRD QUARTER**

### **FOURTH QUARTER**

- **Novel:** *Soldier X* by Don Wulffson
- **Reading:** Unit Four: Strange Goings On  
Drama: *The Hitchhiker* by Lucille Fletcher  
Unit Five: American Voices  
Personal Narrative: "Roughing It" by Mark Twain  
Humor: "Who's on First?" Author Unknown
- **Writing:** Paragraph Development continued
- **Grammar:** Verbs: Chapter 4, Lessons 1-9
- **Vocabulary:** Lessons 13-16
- **FINAL EXAM**

## **RUBRIC**

### **Reading, Grammar, and Vocabulary**

<b>Quarterly/Midterm/Final Examinations</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Tests</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Journals/Quizzes</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Homework/Class Work</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Class Participation</b>	<b><u>10</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>