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# PETERS TOWNSHIP MIDDLE SCHOOL

## COURSE SYLLABUS: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

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Course Information	Teacher Information
<u>Course Length:</u> Full Year	<u>Name:</u> R. Brown, C. McCue, N. Mitchell

### **Course Overview and Essential Skills**

In eighth grade language arts, students will scaffold on essential elements of writing, research, and literary analysis introduced in seventh grade. Students will work with all genres, including: nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and drama. Students will develop key writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills necessary to function as successful ninth graders.

### **Course Textbook, Supplemental Resources and Required Materials**

Books read in part or in full:

- *The Best of Poe: The Tell-Tale Heart, The Raven, The Cask of Amontillado, and 30 Others* (2006) ISBN# 9781580493871
- *Great Stories of Horror and Suspense* (2008) ISBN# 7981603890670
- *Great American Poems* (2008) ISBN# 7981603890717
- *The Twelfth Night* (2007) ISBN# 9781580492201
- *The Taming of the Shrew* (2007) ISBN# 9789580495929
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2005) ISBN# 97881580495882
- *The Cage* (1986) ISBN# 100027818306
- *Unbroken* (2014) ISBN# 9780385742511
- *Night* (2006) ISBN# 139780374500016
- *Daniel's Story* (1993) ISBN# 139780590465885

Additional print texts that may be used if time allows:

- Additional poems not included in the text above: "Hazel Tells Laverne" - Katharyn Howd Machan; "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night" - Dylan Thomas; "Crossing the Bar" - Lord Alfred Tennyson; "Love is a Place" - E.E. Cummings; "Design" - Robert Frost; "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening" - Robert Frost; "Going for Water" - Robert Frost; "Ozymandias" - Percy Bysshe Shelley; "One Art" - Elizabeth Bishop; "Bright Star" - John Keats; "Macavity" - T. S. Eliot; "Where the Sidewalk Ends" - Shel Silverstein; "I, Too" - Langston Hughes; "Mother to Son" - Langston Hughes; "Theme for English B" - Langston Hughes; "Phenomenal Woman" - Maya Angelou; "Still I Rise" - Maya Angelou; "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" - Maya Angelou; "If You Were Coming in the Fall" - Emily Dickinson; "Back to December" - Taylor Swift
- "Cruelty in the Olympics" (nonfiction article by Samantha Retrosi, 2014)
- "10,000 Hour Rule" (nonfiction article by Malcolm Gladwell, 2014)
- "America Needs its Nerds" (editorial from *The New York Times* by Leonid Fridman 1990)
- "One Amazing Athlete" (nonfiction article by Emily Sandlier)
- "Josh Dobb: Rocket Scientist QB" by Mike Tanier (2017)
- "Everyone Has an Accent" (nonfiction article by Walt Wolfram, 2000)
- "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson
- *Flares of Memory* (excerpts) edited by Anita Brostoff
- *After Long Silence* (excerpt) by Helen Fremont
- "Death of my Father" and "Moshe the Madman" from *Legends of our Time* by Elie Wiesel

Video Clips:

- Selections from Ted-Ed and United Streaming

- *Toyland* (2007 short film; rated TV-PG)
- *Paperclips* (2004 documentary; rated G)
- *Nicky's Family* (2011 docudrama)
- Approved Suspense Clips: *Finding Nemo*, *Lion King*, *Ice Age II: The Meltdown*, *Bourne Ultimatum*, *Signs*, *The Sixth Sense*, *I am Legend*, *The Day After Tomorrow*, *What Lies Beneath*, *Jurassic Park*, *Back to the Future*; *New Moon*; *Sponge Bob "Squeaky Boots"* (Season 1, episode 8; 1999); "The Raven" from *The Simpsons* ("Treehouse of Horror," season 2, episode 3; 1990; rated TV-14)
- "Letter to Jocelyn" from *A Knight's Tale* (2001; rated PG-13)
- *She's the Man* (2006; rated PG-13)
- *The Taming of the Shrew* (1967; director Zeffirelli)
- *Ten Things I Hate About You* (clips only; 1999; rated PG-13)
- Sparknotes cartoon summary of *Midsummer Night's Dream*
- Clip of *The Three Stooges*
- *Shakespeare Retold* (2005 BBC series)
- *Do You Speak American?* (2005 PBS documentary)
- Clips of Yoda talking from *Starwars*
- Abbott and Costello's "Who's on First"
- John Green's "Crash Course #38" WWII introduction

**Course Outline of Material Covered:**

<b>Unit or Topic</b>	<b>Course Activities/Resources</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Unit of study or major topic as outlined in curriculum	Projects, papers, quizzes, labs, homework, class work, movies used, etc	May indicate the month or amount of time for unit
Accelerated Reader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent Reading</li> <li>• AR digital tests</li> </ul>	All year
Vocabulary (tier II and III)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocabulary HW, quizzes, and tests</li> </ul>	All year
Grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Punctuation, usage, and improved style</li> <li>• IXL digital software</li> </ul>	Embedded in units throughout the year
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay writing</li> <li>• Analyze nonfiction articles</li> <li>• HW, quizzes, and test</li> </ul>	4-5 weeks
Suspense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze elements of suspense in multiple media</li> <li>• Create short story with elements of suspense</li> <li>• Short stories by Poe and other authors</li> <li>• HW, quizzes, and test</li> <li>• Please visit the Suspense Clip movie listing above and on the PTMS website</li> </ul>	3-5 weeks
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study of the unique elements of the English language</li> <li>• Essay writing</li> <li>• HW, quizzes, and test</li> <li>• "Everyone Has an Accent"</li> <li>• "Do you Speak American" short documentary</li> </ul>	3-4 weeks
Poetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze elements of poetic style in various poems (e.g. theme, mood, devices, etc.)</li> <li>• Create original poems with multimedia project</li> <li>• HW, quizzes, test</li> </ul>	4-5 weeks
Shakespearean Comedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze elements of Shakespearean language and comedy</li> </ul>	4-5 weeks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine the text through various media</li> <li>• Dramatization of the text</li> <li>• Analytic writing</li> <li>• HW, quizzes, and test</li> <li>• <i>She's the Man</i>; clips from <i>Ten Things I Hate about You</i>; and <i>Taming of the Shrew (1967)</i></li> </ul>	
Holocaust and WWII Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze excerpts from several historically accurate texts</li> <li>• Read and analyze one full book on this topic</li> <li>• <i>Unbroken, Night, and The Cage</i></li> <li>• Writing assignments</li> <li>• Class discussion, HW, quizzes, test</li> <li>• <i>Paperclips, Toyland, and/or Nicky's Family</i></li> </ul>	4-6 weeks
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research a topic related to the WWII era</li> <li>• Create and deliver multimedia presentation</li> <li>• HW, quizzes</li> </ul>	4-5 weeks

***\*Depending on the needs of the class or changes in the school year, the course outline is subject to change.***

Updated August 2017