

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_



**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-AP Language Arts  
Course Syllabus**  
Mrs. Woodruff ([woodruffs@mail.leon.k12.fl.us](mailto:woodruffs@mail.leon.k12.fl.us))  
[www.griffin.leon.k12.fl.us/woodruffs](http://www.griffin.leon.k12.fl.us/woodruffs)  
2008-2009

### Overview

Pre-AP Language Arts is a reading- and writing-intensive course of study. Throughout the school year, we will be reading class novels and literature circle books in a variety of genres, with a focus on **nonfiction**. You will be expected to read independently for a minimum of **30 minutes** each night, just like last year. We will also be refining our writing techniques and procedures. Benchmarks for this class can be found at <http://etc.usf.edu/flstandards/la/new-pdfs/points-8.pdf>.

#### Major Curriculum Topics & Novels

##### **Writing**

Persuasive techniques  
Comparative essay

Expository and research-based writing  
Grammar (complex sentences, semi-colon usage, common misuses)

##### **Reading (possible texts)**

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee  
*Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt  
Independent reading choices

*Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes  
various non-fiction texts  
a variety of small-group novels

### Class Rules & Citizenship grades

As a Pre-AP class, you are held to a high standard. Our rules are “Be Appropriate,” “Be Respectful,” and “Be Positive.” I expect you to have a positive attitude toward others and our class. I also expect you to respect your classmates’ property and persons. To be appropriate, you must make sure you are making the best choices, and doing what is supposed to be done. Appropriate behavior also includes following our class procedures and school rules. Citizenship grades depend on following class rules and compliance with school dress code and tardiness policy.

### Tardiness

You must be across the threshold of the door when the bell rings to be on time. Three tardies will result in a referral and possible ISS.

### Grading Policy

This class will follow the Griffin Middle School grading scale, found in your Agenda books. Your grade will be calculated using four categories: **homework, participation, class work, and tests/quizzes/projects**. These are the percentages used for calculating your grades:

#### Category Percentages

Homework	25%
Participation	10%
Class work	25%
Tests/Quizzes/Projects	40%

#### Grading Scale

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

#### **Homework Policy-25%**

Work completed entirely out of the classroom is considered homework. This includes: reading 30 minutes a night, journals, **reading essays/projects** and **Friday Night Writes**.