

English Curriculum
8th Grade

"Hemingway's observation that 'a man can be destroyed but not defeated' might be the identifying characteristic of literature in the twentieth-century"
~ J.D. Salinger

The purpose of DVA 8th grade English class is to study the literature of 20th century man and juxtapose it with the arguably greatest Shakespearean play. Students' involvement in leading and carrying discussions will focus their development of self-directed research. Students will produce and perform in an original play at school year's end.

Books and Plays:

Fahrenheit 451/Harrison Bergeron—Dystopian Study
Hamlet
Of Mice and Men
To Kill a Mockingbird

Writing Concepts for Exploration:

Descriptive Writing
Realistic Stories
Essays
Poetry
Persuasive Writing
Expository Writing
Point of View
Observations
Journal Writing

Grammar Concepts:

Parts of Speech
Proofreading
Mechanics
Sentence Activities
Effective Sentences
Clauses/Phrases

Write Source Skills Book,
Level 9, text

Open Research Project
Chicago Shakespeare Field Trips

Drama Concepts:

Play Analysis
Voice and Communication
Improvisation
Trust and Risk Taking
Two and Three Person Scene Study
Monologue
Playwriting/Directing