

# Language Arts 3: Course Content and Expectations

2018-2019

**Ms. McLeish**  
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## Course Description and Objectives

This course will continue the development of reading and writing skills established in Language Arts I and II. The focus of this class is to broaden each student's knowledge and understanding of literature and culture and to strengthen his/her verbal and written communication skills. Students will engage in critical thinking, analytical discussion, and literary discourse to further their understanding of literature, nonfiction, and the world around them.

## Behavior Expectations

**Students will be expected to demonstrate responsibility, ownership, kindness, and respect.**

This includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Be courteous and respectful to all.
2. Come to class on time prepared to participate as an active learner.
3. Be seated and ready to begin *before* the bell rings.
4. Use technology appropriately. (ie. Cell phones/smartphones/smartwatches should not be used during class unless specific permission is granted for academic purposes.)
5. Complete all assignments on time.
6. Use academic and appropriate language in class.
7. Check posted grades on Aeries regularly.
8. Check Google Classroom/Class Website for Important Due Dates/Updates
9. Follow all rules and expectations included in the VHS handbook.
10. Follow all established classroom routines and procedures reviewed in class.

## Test Taking in Class:

Do not violate the testing environment. This can include, but is not limited to the following:

1. Having your phone out and visible for any reason, including checking the time.
2. Communicating with anyone in class verbally or nonverbally.
3. Using unauthorized study materials during a test.

*If you have questions about what is permissible, please see me for specifics.*

## Possible Consequences

- |                   |               |                   |                       |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Verbal Warning | 3. Conference | 5. Parent Contact | 7. Removal from Class |
| 2. Seat Changes   | 4. Detention  | 6. Referral       |                       |

## Tardy Policy

Students can expect the teacher to adhere to the school policy regarding tardies. Please see the student handbook and school website for details.

## Course Content: Literature

Majority of the texts studied will be found within the McGraw Hill StudySync curriculum assigned for this course including four specific units of study which focus on a particular theme or essential question.

Unit 1 - *We The People*                      Unit 3 - Modern Times - *The Great Gatsby*  
 Unit 2 - *The Individual*                      Unit 4 - Seeking Romance - *Midsummer's Night Dream*

In addition, time permitting, the following texts will be possible options for this course:

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald  
*The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare  
 Various short stories and poetry by a variety of authors

Moreover, we will read a variety of non-fiction texts including newspaper articles, biographies, research, etcetera. We may also view scenes from films—that are course relevant—in order to enhance the literature we read.

## Grades

Grades are based on written assignments including major projects, essays, literature tests, grammar tests, vocabulary quizzes, oral presentations, and the final exam. Assignments are weighted as follows:

Curriculum Component	Percentage of Overall Grade
<b>Writing</b> Including, but not limited to the following types of assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Essays</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Article of the Week Responses</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Any other daily/weekly writing activities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Performance Tasks/Other Writing Assessments</li> </ul>	40%
<b>Reading</b> Including, but not limited to the following types of assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reading Quizzes/Tests</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Annotations</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reading Comprehension Assignments</li> </ul>	30%
<b>Listening/Speaking</b> Including, but not limited to the following types of assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Socratic Seminars</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Literature Circles</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Class Discussions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Presentations</li> </ul>	30%

## Course Content: Class work and Homework

**Late Work Policy:** Late classwork and homework will be accepted up until the Friday before the current quarter ends for 50% credit. Late essays will receive a 10% reduction in points for each day the essay is late. *Please remember, earning partial credit is always better than a zero.*

**Make-Up Work/Absence Policy:** Students are allowed one day per each excused day absent to make up work. For extended absences, please submit a homework request. It is the student's responsibility to request and submit any assignments prior to the end of each quarter in order to receive any credit.

It is also the student's responsibility to schedule a time to make-up any quiz/test missed during an excused absence. *Tests and quizzes must be made up no later than one week after the excused absence.*

Handouts may be available on the teacher's website and/or in make-up work file in class. *Students should also check the class website, Google Classroom, or check their Remind Application, to see if there are any major updates added for the day(s) they were absent.*

**Homework Expectations for Reading Assignments:** Students will be required to complete approximately 75 percent of the assigned reading for homework. This includes completing annotations as required throughout the year. Students may use post-it notes for annotations when using borrowed texts (must be provided by the students) or if students choose to purchase a book, as they are assigned, then students may annotate directly within his or her individually purchased book.

**Extra Credit Policy:** There will be minimal opportunities for extra credit, but students will be given ample time if such opportunities do arise.

### Necessary Materials

It is of the utmost importance that you come to class ready to participate as an active learner. In order to do this, you must bring the following supplies to class on a daily basis:

- 3-ring binder with a section for Language Arts 3
- Lined notebook paper
- Pencils and erasers
- Pens (blue or black ink only)
- Highlighter(s)
- Flashcards (any size, lined or unlined is acceptable)
- Assigned novels, reading assignments, handouts, etc.

### Dear Parents/Guardians, and Family Members,

Hello and welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! I have sent home the course syllabus with your student, and I would greatly appreciate it if you could look it over and review the course policies and important information that it covers. After you have reviewed the syllabus, please sign the attached contact information page to indicate that you understand and agree to the policies mentioned within the syllabus. **Please have your student return the signed copy of the syllabus and the signed film viewing policy permission slip (on the last page) by this Thursday, the 30th of August.**

The best way to contact me is through e-mail at the address listed below. Please feel free to e-mail me with any questions you might have about the class. I try my best to respond within 24 hours. Moreover, I have a class website available on the staff page at [vhtigers.org](http://vhtigers.org) that lists important updates. Students will also receive a code to use the Remind App that will allow students to receive updates directly through the App and they will also receive a specific classroom code to access Google Classroom. Your student is able to invite you to have access to Google Classroom. This is a great way to see when assignments are due or check for updates as well.

I look forward to meeting you at *Back-to-School Night* on Wednesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of September and I am looking forward to working with you to help your student succeed this year in Language Arts 3! Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

**Ms. McLeish**

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