

Curriculum on a Page Grade 8 - Third Quarter



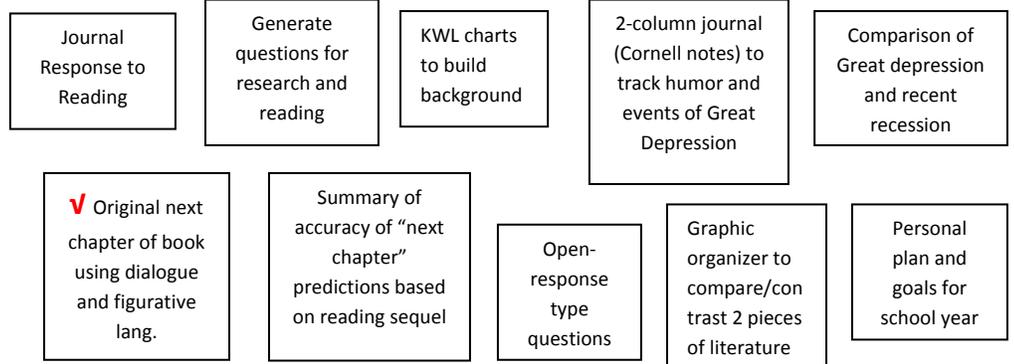
Reading Selections: Students will read fiction, stories, poems, cartoons to explore the theme of humor in literature. **Novels:** *A Long Way from Chicago*, and *A Year Down Yonder*, by R. Peck. **Poem:** "The Blind Men and the Elephant", selected humorous poems. **Short Stories:** "The Fifty-first Dragon", "The Night the Bed Fell" in literature book, selected picture books and cartoons. **Research:** Internet, magazine and newspaper articles and other sources for information on The Great Depression and the recent US recession. **Practical Reading:** Photos, and Individual students' data from charts/graphs. Note: In middle schools, **Accelerated Reader** is used to motivate students for independent reading and is not part of the curriculum.



Discussion Themes: lessons in short stories; the Great Depression and hardships, and a comparison to the recent recession; how authors use humor with serious subjects; predicting and evaluating predictions; comparing/contrasting humorous story and poem; humor and the truth found in it; what makes cartoons funny; point of view; inference via humor and humor via inference.



Writing: As they read and discuss, students will write the following pieces:



LRSD Curriculum is outlined for teachers in detailed curriculum maps. This document is an overview of the curriculum to which all students in the LRSD have access with appropriate modifications, support, enrichment and remediation when needed. As a rule, teachers may add to but not subtract from this curriculum.

We integrate the reading and writing, speaking and listening, and research in the secondary curriculum.

Writing Conventions: Specifically taught this quarter and integrated with previously taught skills are self and peer editing; using Cornell notes; KWL chart; generate questions for reading; using figurative language, dialogue, transition words, sentence variety in writing; summarizing; active/passive voice; literary devices, verbals. As needed during writing (editing and revision) other skills are addressed. Writing conventions (grammar, usage, mechanics) are best taught in conjunction with student's own work. **All students maintain a writing portfolio, which follows students from 6th grade to graduation. These portfolio pieces are indicated with ✓ above.**

Vocabulary Skills: Vocabulary is taught in four ways: Academic vocabulary terms specific to literacy; specified and as needed contextual vocabulary from reading; study of Greek and Latin root words and affixes; and whenever clarity is needed. Students are taught using a variety of strategies that allow them to use the terms, recognize the new words in context, and demonstrate mastery in daily work. Word walls are tools for building vocabulary in each classroom.