



Chandler Unified School District

ENG800A Language Arts 8
SY 2023-24



Course Overview

Course Description

Builds upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing. Includes the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Uses various genres of literature to improve reading skill. Links writing exercises for different purposes to those reading selections.

AP/IB/Dual Enrollment

No

Prerequisite/Fee(s)

None

Course Materials

- Black or blue pen
- Individual pencil sharpener
- Colored Pencils or Markers
- 4 Highlighters: 1 pink, 1 green, 1 yellow (orange is acceptable too), 1 blue
- 2 Spiral notebooks (One for each quarter. Preferably at least 50 pages.)
- Fully charged chromebook
- Book to read when all assignments are done.

Adopted Resource(s)

Savvas My Perspectives

**An asterisk will indicate a resource containing sexually explicit materials per legislative definitions. CUSD has determined that all resources listed above are of exceptional educational value.*

Site and Faculty Information

School name and address:

Payne Junior High School, 7655 S Higley Rd, Queen Creek, AZ 85142

Building principal:

Lisa Palella
palella.lisa@cusd80.com

Teacher:

Mr. Westlake Associate in Arts, BA - English
westlake.david@cusd80.com

Office hours: Office: M-F from 8:35am-4:30pm, Tutoring: By appointment or Wednesday & Thursday [4-5pm]

Course Access

This course is taught in-person at Payne Junior High School. Students will have access to the curriculum and instruction in the classroom. Google Classroom is the primary location for students to access material when absent from classes taught in person.

Help

Academic Support

-
- Contact the teacher to schedule an appointment during office hours
 - [Ed Tech](#) support for students, parents/guardians, and community link (cusd80.com/Page/45109)

Mental Health Support

- CUSD mental health support cusd80.com/Domain/10528 or 480-573-8808 (talk or text)
- Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: 9-8-8 hotline
- 24-hour Crisis Line Talk: 602-222-9444, Text: 741-741

Student Conduct, Success, and Responsibilities

Student Handbook

Students must follow the policies and procedures established in the Student Handbook. Copies of the handbook can be found at cusd80.com/handbooks. Printed copies will be provided upon request.

Student Responsibilities

I will put the week's agenda on the board at the start of each week, and students are to copy it into their agendas and grab a new bellwork if there is one and notes from the back. Agendas need to be out for me to stamp when the bell rings, and I will stamp the agenda for that day only.

In your student handbook, it mentions that students not in their seats when the bell rings are tardy, and my classroom follows that. If you need to use the restroom before class, don't wait to ask me; use your passing time wisely. This agenda includes assignments/readings and any quizzes or tests for the week.

I have the class slides up with directions. Make sure you listen to what I say and look at the screen before asking me.

After bellwork is completed (it should take no more than 5 minutes to complete), be prepared to have your notebooks out for a 3 minute writing prompt and students will be called on to share so have your answers ready. These will be checked to make sure you are doing them randomly like a pop quiz, so be sure to check each one. At the end of each quarter, there will be a notebook check.

There is to be no talking while I or another student is talking during a discussion or lecture. Desks are to stay put unless I say otherwise. By the end of the year, if I feel like my classes have earned it, I may move the rows into tables.

Can I eat in Mr. Westlake's class?

No eating in my class and you can only have water. Snacks and drinks should be put away when the bell rings or they are liable to be confiscated until the end of the hour. A referral may be written if this misbehavior happens.

Students are expected to stay in their seats and work unless mentioned otherwise.

When the lesson is over and the class is about to end, students clean up around them and stay in their seats. Once I say good-bye, you may get up and head to your next class without pushing or shoving.

Phones are to be in your backpacks and only taken out if I say so. You get one warning and then after that, your phone will be put in the Phone Jail.

Late work

Students are responsible to get new copies on their own either in class or print them out via Google Classroom if they get lost. Late and missing work will be organized based on if the assignment was due that week or a week before. After 2 days without communicating with me about the situation, students will be at risk to lose 5 points every day the assignment is late. If you're absent that day, you will have time to make it up when you get back with a 1 day extension before I put it in the gradebook as missing. For larger assignments, such as essays or any exam, students will have until the quarter deadline I make to turn it in before I close grades. The announcement will be made at least a week in advance. Some assignments may have exceptions, but those will be announced when the time comes.

Assessments and Assignments

Students will complete assessments during each unit of study to assess their understanding. Students will complete the CUSD Common Final at the end of the first and second semesters. The Common Final will count for 20% of the student's final semester grade in grades 9-12 and 10% in grades 7-8 (some exceptions may apply at the Junior High level). Common finals will be in ELA, Math, Science, Social Science, and World Language.

Final exams will be given during the CUSD Jr High/High School Early Dismissal days in December and May, as identified on the [District Calendar](#).

If students are requested to participate in a survey, the survey questions will be provided to parents/guardians seven days before student contact.

Grading

Grade Percentage

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

Quarter grades

There is homework in my class. Projects will be done in an extended period of time in class, but do not rely on that class time only. Depending on how much time you get and effort you put in class during work time will determine whether or not you will have homework that night. For example, if I hand out a worksheet in class, and I give you time to work on it, but you didn't finish it or you haven't finished the reading, I expect you to have it done and turned in by the deadline. Deadlines will be on the weekly agenda on the board and class slides which will be put in Google Classroom.

Some assignments will be turned in for grading such as essays. Any assignment I say to turn in will be turned in inside your hour's designated bin. Assignments on time go IN the hour bin, assignments turned in late will go in the late work bin, and assignments that need to be passed back will be beside the class bin with a clip.

Assessments for Quarter Grades – 60% Tests/Exams, and 40% Classwork/Homework.
All assignments and assessments must be completed before the last day of the quarter. Any assignments not completed will be entered as zeros in the gradebook.

Semester grades

Semester grades are calculated using 45/45/10: Each quarter accounts for 45% of the semester grade and the final exam accounts for the remaining 10%.

Units of Study and Selected Novels

Units of Study

Grammar throughout the semester
House on Mango Street* (Note: vignette containing explicit material will not be read/studied)
Argumentative Writing

Selected Novels

House on Mango Street* (The vignette containing explicit material will not be read/studied)

**An asterisk will indicate a unit of study containing sexually explicit materials per legislative definitions.*



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Parent/Guardian

Acknowledgment

Parents/Guardians should indicate if they “Acknowledge” or have a “Potential Conflict” with their student’s participation in the following units by checking the appropriate box for each unit of study listed. Students cannot opt out of a standards-based unit. Marking “Potential Conflict” will prompt the teacher to make contact regarding assignment alternatives.

Unit of study	Acknowledge	Potential Conflict
Grammar throughout the semester	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
House on Mango Street* (Note: vignette containing explicit material will not be read/studied)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Argumentative Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Selected Novels	Acknowledge	Potential Conflict
House on Mango Street* ((The vignette containing explicit material will not be read/studied)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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By signing and returning this form, the parent/guardian acknowledges they have reviewed the resources and units of the study included in the syllabus.

- As the parent/guardian, I understand that I may contact the teacher if I have questions about the resources, content, or units of study.
- As the parent/guardian, I understand I can check my student’s grades in Infinite Campus anytime during the school year.

Student name (printed) _____

Student signature _____

Parent/Guardian name (printed) _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Please return this page to your student’s teacher.