



Eighth-Grade English, Part 1

Syllabus



Course Description

The theme of this Eighth-Grade English, Part 1 course is **Understanding Diversity Through Literature**. The course is divided into sixteen modules. As you progress through these modules, you will read a variety of texts that address different aspects of the theme and help you consider our four essential questions:

- Why is it important to understand and learn from diverse cultures?
- How does globalization impact us as individuals and as nations?
- What is culture and how are people impacted by culture?
- How can we better be sensitive to and respect diverse cultures?

Prerequisites

Seventh-Grade English, Parts 1 and 2

Course Materials and Technology

Each student will choose **ONE** of the following books to read during the course:

- *On Two Feet and Wings* by Abbas Kazerooni
- *The Girl With Seven Names* by Hueonsoo Lee
- *Red Scarf Girl* by Ji-li Jiang



Course Outcomes

As students complete the course assignments, they will increase their knowledge, improve a 21st-century skill, and develop an attribute.



Knowledge: Eighth-Grade English, Part 1

In this course, *knowledge* refers to the subject matter and content students will learn while completing the readings, interactive practices, quizzes, and assignments.

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Analyze elements of narrative story structure.
- Discover three points of view of an author's craft.
- Identify figurative language in reading a variety of texts.
- Differentiate between topics and themes.
- Use textual evidence to support theme in writing an essay.
- Increase vocabulary and grammar skills to improve writing.



21st-Century Skill: Communication—Delivering a Presentation

As students complete this course's assignments, they will gain skills in *Delivering a Presentation*. This skill is under the umbrella of *Communication*. Students will have opportunities to communicate what they are learning about the novels' themes, characterization, setting, and more through writing, responding, and delivering presentations.



Attribute: Respect

This course focuses on the attribute of respect in the context of Eighth-Grade English. There are various examples drawn from literature and other texts to think about to help students think of ways to increase their respect for other people and cultures. Students will read a variety of perspectives to gain insights into this important attribute.



Grading and Assignments

The letter grade in this course will be based on these assignments and exams.

Assignment or Exam	Grading	Percent of Total Grade
Study Guides	Teacher-Graded	20%
Assignments	Teacher-Graded	40%
Computer-Graded Quizzes	Computer-Graded	20%
Midcourse Quiz + Final Exam	Computer-Graded	20%

Due Dates

The due dates in the course are only suggestions to help the students pace themselves. You *do not* need to complete assignments, quizzes, and exams by the due date set in the course.

Study Guides

Study guides are provided for each module. They will help students focus on the important concepts needed to be successful in this course and in life. Study guides will be due in each module and points will be awarded upon submission.

Application Projects

Application projects give the students opportunities to apply the concepts they have learned to real-life situations, scenarios, and events. They also evaluate the students' mastery of the Skill for the course.

- Module 3: Video Presentation: Point of View (Application Project)
- Module 6: Video Presentation: Speech About a Relative (Application Project)
- Module 11: Video Presentation: Research Speech (Application Project)

Assignments

These assignments will be submitted in the following modules, some of which are computer graded:

- Module 1: *The Scholarship Jacket* Analysis
- Module 2: Using Textual Evidence: Explicit Detail and Supporting Inferences
- Module 4: Compare and Contrast *Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou
- Module 4: Imagery Log: *The Boastful Bamboo*
- Module 5: Comparing Information and Analyzing Setting
- Module 6: "The Medicine Bag" Reading Guide
- Module 7: "My First Free Summer" Reading Guide
- Module 8: Plot and Character Development Worksheet
- Module 9: Final Narrative Draft Submission
- Module 11: Annotated Bibliography
- Module 12: Examining Your Book of Choice, Part 1
- Module 13: Examining Your Book of Choice, Part 2
- Module 14: Examining Your Book of Choice, Part 3
- Module 15: Examining Your Book of Choice, Part 4

Module Quizzes

There are open note quizzes at the end of every module, which reinforce important standards covered in the lessons and on the study guides.

Midcourse Quiz

This computer-graded quiz will cover the material up to the midcourse quiz. The questions on the midcourse quiz will be similar in format to the questions on the final exam. The midcourse quiz is in module 8.

Final Exam

The final exam covers all the material in the course.

Course Grade

The letter grade will be calculated according to these percentages.

Percent to Letter Grade Calculation	
A	100%-93%
A-	<93%-90%
B+	<90%-87%
B	<87%-83%
B-	<83%-80%
C+	<80%-77%
C	<77%-73%
C-	<73%-70%
D+	<70%-67%
D	<67%-63%
D-	<63%-60%
F (fail)	<60%-0%

Grading scale