

**SOMA School of the Medical Arts  
Darnell-Cookman Middle/High School  
Curriculum Paper  
2009-2010**

**Course Title:** M/J Language Arts 1 Advanced  
**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Gifted/Advanced Language Arts**

**Teacher:** Mrs. Karen Gaylor  
Eagles Team  
gaylork@duvalschools.org

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Our mission at Darnell-Cookman is to prepare students for collegiate success through a rigorous and integrated curriculum in the professional **medical arts**, emphasizing integrity, the pursuit of academic excellence and a passion for life-long learning.

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** The 2009-2010 Language Arts curriculum continues to focus on high standards of literacy for all students. The Florida Sunshine State Standards focus on what is central to the domain; they are built around reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing. Our Florida Sunshine State Standards represent a balanced view of what students should know and the ways they should demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have acquired in this domain. Sixth grade students will be expected to read both literature and informational texts. They are required to produce writing based on their responses to literature and various essays that meet the Florida Sunshine State Standards for sixth grade. In addition, students are expected to become proficient speakers to improve their listening and speaking skills. Students will meet these high standards through their participation in reading/writing workshops, intensive novel studies, interactive group activities, and projects that focus on critical thinking and creativity. As we participate in our *Understanding by Design* curriculum this year, it is our goal that students see the big picture or idea before each unit of study and then apply the necessary strategies to internally grasp these concepts as part of a life-long learning process. **Since Darnell-Cookman is now an academically gifted/talented medical school, an emphasis will be placed on medical topics and themes throughout the year.**

## **I. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. Bring to Class Every Day:**

1. Assigned novel for required reading/novel study
2. Ball-point pen (Blue or Black ink only) Dry Erasable pens/#2 pencils
3. Pencils - #2
4. Pencil holder with pens, pencils, highlighter
5. Notebook (Source Book) Three-Ring Notebook with dividers – Blue (1 inch)
6. Highlighter
7. Colored Pencils/Markers (To be kept in language arts classroom)
8. Post-It Notes – These will be used for novel studies (**Extremely important**)
9. Duo-Tang folder for **Writing Portfolio**
10. Glue sticks/Construction paper – To be kept in Language Arts Classroom
11. Flash Drive – To save important information when typed

12. **Two Composition Book** or **Spiral Notebook** for “Caught Ya’s” (Daily Sentence Practice and Two Column Notes/Reading Strategies)
13. Mini-Stapler

### **Books Required for Language Arts**

*McDougal Littell Literature* – **Reading**

**Grammar Book** – Remains in LA classroom

Designated novel for novel study - Bring to class daily.

### **B. Materials to be kept in Language Arts source book – Tabs and sections for notebooks should be in the order as listed below:**

1. Bell-warmers
2. Reading Strategies
3. Short Stories/Novels - Notes
4. Vocabulary
5. Poetry/Drama
6. Writing/Grammar Activities
7. Guidelines/Rubrics/Standards

(Notebooks should be cleaned out at the end of each nine weeks.)

### **C. Papers and class assignments for Language Arts must be.....**

1. Written neatly
2. All essays, stories, poems, etc. must be written in ink or at times typed.
3. Papers shall have the following heading:
  - Name – John Adams (First and last name)
  - Date – August 24, 2009
  - Period #
  - Assignment – Page number and title of assignment must be given.

### **D. PROJECTS:**

1. Book test/projects from required reading.
2. Students will complete paragraphs, written essays and stories that are part of our District requirements for this year. Students will be given explicit instruction on how to write effective sentences, paragraphs, and introductions that will lead them into writing effective essays. District writing prompts will be given each nine weeks long with other various writing assignments. An explanation of these assignments will be given separately. Each assignment will be kept in the student’s portfolio this year.
3. At times students may be required to purchase a book for a novel study. The books may be checked out at their community or school library. Book stores will know ahead of time so that an abundant supply will be available.
4. Other projects will be explained throughout the year with specific guidelines and rubrics in written form.

### **E. Literacy**

Along with reading short stories, poems, non-fiction, and dramas in our literature book, we will also participate in novel studies. Students will be required to participate in reading outside of class and complete assigned reading strategies (ex. Two Column Notes) to be kept in a composition book. Students will participate in

group activities that will relate to their assigned reading. After a novel is read, a major test will be given. Students will complete **Reader's Response forms** in class on the day of their novel test for certain designated books. Students will be tested on all required reading for this class.

#### **E. HOMEWORK:**

Homework is required daily and should be turned in on the following day. Points will be deducted from work that is done sloppily. Students will receive half credit for work that is turned in late. The student's name, assignment date, and period are required on all papers to receive credit.

#### **G. MAKE-UP POLICY FOR LATE WORK:**

A grace period will be given initially for half credit on late work and will decrease with each 9 week period as follows.

First Nine Weeks - Three(3) days to submit late homework for half credit.

Second Nine Weeks - Two days to submit late homework for half credit.

Third Nine Weeks - One day to submit late homework for half credit.

Fourth Nine Weeks - No late homework will be accepted

A major project that has not been turned in on the required day will be reduced by **15 points** for each day that it is late. After five days it will not be accepted.

#### **H. AGENDA BOOKS:**

Each Monday, the assignments for the week will be listed on the board. Students will write them in their planners. Important due dates for projects and upcoming tests should also be copied in students' planners. Planners will be checked periodically for quiz grades or extra credit points. It is important to keep up with your assignments and not get behind. My assignments will be posted on [www.schoolnotes.com](http://www.schoolnotes.com) and our school's **Oncourse website**. Assignments and various attachments will be given on this website.

#### **I. TESTS:**

Tests will be given at the end of each unit of study. Novel tests will be given after a novel study. Vocabulary tests will be given every other week. A test on prefixes, suffixes, and root words will be given every other week. These words will come from our "Caught Ya" daily practice along with words from novels and short stories studied in class. Quizzes and reading tests will be given at the end of most stories. All written essays will be counted as test grades. Novel tests will count 200 points. One hundred points will be for an objective test and the other 100 points will be for the completion of a Reader's Response Form.

#### **FCAT Practice Tests**

FCAT practice tests and formative assessments will be given weekly. Students will be required to take notes and explain their answers on these tests. If students do not take notes and give an explanation, points will be deducted from their test. Bonus points will be given for an answer that is explained above what is required.

A model lesson will be given to show students what is required for these tests. All practice FCAT tests are worth a test grade.

**J. Extra Credit:**

Extra credit is **NOT** given to make up for work not completed on time. Extra credit is given for students who often go above and beyond what is required on projects, tests, homework, and class assignments. Also, students who spend extra time on FCAT Explorer and Compass Odyssey will receive extra bonus points. Extra credit is given to those students who are completing their assigned work on time.

**K. GRADING:**

Grades will be based on accumulation of points ranging from **0-100 points**. **Students will be required to keep up with their points on a grade sheet so they will know what their average is at all times. Student's grade sheet will be checked periodically for a grade They will be required to keep their grade sheet in the front of their Language Arts notebook.**

**Ex. Homework/Classwork – 10-20**

**Essays – 100 points**

**Projects/tests – 100 points**

**Reader's Response Forms – 100**

**Tests – 100**

**Quizzes – 20-30**

**Notebook Grade – 30 points**

**Novel Tests – 200 points**

**Grading Scale – 90-100=A 89-80 = B 79-70=C 69-60=D 59-below=F**

**L. ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP POLICY:**

Attendance is very important in an academically talented environment. when an absence does occur please:

- A. Check the assignment board
- B. Have a student/partner to trade information, updates, assignments
- C. Check with your teacher to make sure you have all the necessary information or if you have any questions about your make-up work.
- D. Students are limited to a window period of one day for each absent.

**M. CONFERENCES:**

If you wish to have a conference with our team concerning your child's academic progress, please call the Guidance Office at 630-6814 and set up an appointment.

**N. Progress Reports:** Progress reports for this year will be sent home on the following dates: (TBA)

1<sup>st</sup> Nine Weeks – B-Day/September 23 A-Day/September 24

2<sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks – B-Day/December 2 A-Day/December 3

3<sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks – B-Day/February 24 A-Day/February 25

4<sup>th</sup> Nine Weeks – B-Day May 12 A-Day/May13

**O. Report Card Dates:** October 30, January 28, April 14, June 15

All report cards must be signed by the parent and returned within three days.

