

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Course Syllabus:** 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Gifted English/Language Arts

**Course Instructor:** Ms. J. Hall

**Class Website:** [www.geocities.com/ms\\_hall\\_bms](http://www.geocities.com/ms_hall_bms)

**Email:** [jlhall@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:jlhall@atlanta.k12.ga.us)



**Course Information:**

This course addresses the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS/state curriculum) requirements for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade language arts. This course focuses on the following areas: Reading and Literature, Reading Across the Curriculum, Writing, Conventions, and Listening, Speaking and Viewing. Incorporating a thematic unit approach which is project-based, students are provided with checklists and rubrics for each unit indicating all assignments and guidelines, as well as due dates. Unit assignments and projects are differentiated based on students interests, learning styles, and abilities. All class assignments and rubrics are posted on the class website.

**Class Supplies:**

3-ring Binder

Notebook Paper

Printer Paper \*

Pens (Blue & Black)

Pencils

Markers \*

Colored Pencils \*

Glue/Glue Stick \*

Highlighters

Scissors \*

Supplies Pouch

Hand-held pencil sharpener

Colored Poster Boards \*

Construction Paper \*

Flash Drive/Disk on Key

\* Project Supplies

**Tutorial:**

Wednesdays  
4:00-5:00 PM

**Parent Conferences:**

Wednesdays  
4:00-5:00 PM  
Also upon request

**Class Rules:**

1. Be on time!
2. Be prepared!
3. Be on task!
4. Be respectful!
5. Eating is prohibited!

**Consequences:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> = Warning  
2<sup>nd</sup> = Writing Assignment Parent/Student Conference  
3<sup>rd</sup> = Parent Contact  
4<sup>th</sup> = Administrative Referral

**Heading on Assignments/Projects:**

Upper Right Corner  
First and Last Name  
Group/Period  
Teacher's Name  
Unit Name

**Unit Checklists:**

All assignments/projects will be delineated on a detailed checklist, distributed before each unit.

**Grading Scale:**

90 – 100 = A  
80 – 89 = B  
70 – 79 = C  
0 – 69 = F

J. E. Brown Middle School  
765 Peoples St. SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30310  
404-802-6800  
Mr. Donnell Underdue Jr., Principal

**Student Expectations:**

Actively participate and work cooperatively.  
 Come prepared to learn.  
 Complete all assignments by date due.  
 Respect people and property.

**Teacher Expectations:**

Encourage participation and creativity.  
 Engage discussion and learning.  
 Provide a positive and nurturing environment.  
 Promote respect and tolerance.

**Reading Requirement:**

All students are required to read a minimum of 25 books during the course of the year, as part of the language arts Georgia Performance Standards. Students are encouraged to select books on their reading level. Additionally, students must complete a reading log to track reading progress.

**Class Guidelines:**

1. Late assignments/units will lose 10 points for each day after the date due.
2. Students not working during class time on assignments will not be permitted to complete them for homework or receive credit.
3. Students are responsible for checking the class calendar, website, or absence packet for missed assignments upon their return to class.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. All work must be original and representative of your own writing style. (Plagiarism is defined as a piece of writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work.)

**Bonus Bucks**

Ms. Hall's *Bonus Bucks* program is to reward positive behavior and academic performance. Students can earn *Bonus Bucks* by following class rules, exhibiting exemplary behavior, and exceeding teacher expectations.

\$15 = Drop a Low Grade (Valid on Completed Unit Assignments Only)

\$30 = Excused from an Unit Assignment (Excludes Tests/Projects)

\$35 = 15 minutes in any Classroom Center (Still Responsible for Class Work)

\$50 = 30 minutes in any Activity Area (Still Responsible for Class Work)

**Student & Parent Contract:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Student's Name), have thoroughly read and understand what is expected for success in my language arts class. It is my responsibility to follow all the rules and guidelines for academics and behavior. It is necessary I keep up with all of my assignments and ask questions for clarification when needed.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student's Signature)

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent's Name), have thoroughly read and understand what is expected for my child's success in language arts class. I agree to monitor my child's academic and behavioral progress to ensure my child is adhering to the class rules. I also agree to assist my child with homework when necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent's Signature)