



Bay Springs Middle School

6th Grade Language Arts

Mrs. Amber Mullis

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Course Summary: Students will use written and oral language, along with media and technology for expressive, informational, argumentative, critical, and literary purposes. Sixth graders will broaden their reading experiences through the study and analysis of compelling literature. During sixth grade, students will become engaged writers as they expand their use of descriptive techniques, experiment with new writing strategies, vocabulary and sentence structures, as well as learn the fundamentals of various genres of writing and literary elements. As students make oral presentations, actively listen to others, and share ideas, they will become editors who constructively critique their own and others' work. Throughout the year, we will use “real-life” applications of writing and reading to promote the importance of mastering the Language Arts Georgia Standards of Excellences.

Units Of Study With Novels:

- ❖ *Unit 1: Resilience in the Great Depression*
 - *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis
 - *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse
- ❖ *Unit 2: A Hero's Journey*
 - *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*
 - *Excerpts from Ramayana* by Sanjay Patel and *The Odyssey* by Gillian Cross
- ❖ *Unit 3: Narrating the Unknown*
 - *Blood on the River, Jamestown 1607* by Elisa Carbone
 - Excerpts from *Written in Bone* by Sally Walker
- ❖ *Unit 4: Courage in Crisis*
 - *The Outsiders* by SE Hinton
 - *Various Short Stories*

Communication: I believe that communication with parents is crucial to a child's success. For the quickest response, the best way to contact me is via e-mail at amber.mullis@carrollcountyschools.com. **Remind** will be used to distribute all class and school information. The code for my class Remind is **@mullisela**

Materials for Class: 1 inch binder with inside pockets, 5 dividers, notebook paper, writing utensil, and **wired headphones**. Other helpful items are highlighters, glue stick, and scissors.

Classroom Behavior: Students are expected to bring materials to class and observe “The Wildcat Way” behavior rules and classroom procedures. Students will receive a verbal warning before being issued a STEP and/or office referral per the STEP behavior plan. Violations of classroom rules may result in isolation in the classroom, silent lunch, discipline assignments, parent contact, or discipline referrals. It is the student's responsibility to be prepared for class each day and to adhere to all school rules and procedures.

Student Technology: We have one-to-one technology in the classroom. Students are to keep cell phones and all technology (including smart watches, Fitbits, etc.) in their locker at ALL times. If a student does not follow the cellphone/technology policy, the device will be taken up and will require parent pick-up in the front office.

Accelerated Reader: We are excited to continue the Accelerated Reader (AR) program at the middle school level. Students who receive a set number of points each nine weeks will be invited to attend a reward celebration.

Homework: Students will have homework that may consist of ELA practice, articles to read and annotate, assigned reading, or work that was not completed in class. If students receive homework that is **not** incomplete classwork, I will send a remind message with details and due date.

Absent Work Policy: Per Carroll County School policies, students will have THREE days upon returning to school to make up missed work due to an excused absence. Make-up work is the responsibility of the student and will be completed by the student outside of class time. If the assignment is not turned in by the predetermined due date, it will result in a zero for the assignment. If a student is absent on the review day before a test/quiz and returns on the test date, they will be expected to take the test as scheduled.

Late Work Policy: Students are expected to complete assignments on time. If there are extenuating circumstances that cause an assignment to be late, students and/or parents should email me immediately. Students will have until the end of the unit before it will no longer be accepted. Please note that points will be deducted each day the assignment is late. If the unit has been completed, it is up to my discretion to whether the assignment will be accepted.

Grading Scale: Student grades will be broken down as follows:

Assessments	Total 40%
• Tests and Major Projects	30%
• Quizzes	10%
Daily Assignments	Total 60%
• Classwork	50%
• Participation & Homework	10%

A	100-90%
B	89-80%
C	79-70%
F	69% and below

Tutoring: If students find themselves struggling with content, they are expected to make an appointment with me for tutoring by completing a Tutoring Request Form located on Google Classroom. Tutoring services will be offered before school, after school, or possibly during their connections classes.

* **Please note that athletes do not receive accommodations for missing class time due to games and/or practice. Their assignments are still due on the due date.**

Common Assessments:

A review session will be held the day before the test. Students are expected to study their notes and ask questions during the review session. Carroll County Common Assessments will take place according to the Carroll County School System testing window and designated days. There will not be a study guide for the Carroll County Common Assessments and the grade will be entered into the gradebook as a test grade. It will be graded as follows:

Score 100: 100 **4 (Distinguished):** 95 **3 (Proficient):** 85 **2 (Developing):** 75 **1 (Beginning):** 65

After 1st semester, Students will not be allowed to retake assignments/tests, revise assignments/tests or complete additional work for extra credit in an effort to prevent the skewing of scores for placement in accelerated and remedial 7th grade courses.

Plagiarism/Academic Integrity: Cheating in any form will not be tolerated and will result in a zero for all parties involved, and may result in disciplinary action. Copying on classwork, homework, quizzes, tests, or plagiarism is considered cheating. Plagiarism is defined as presenting the work of another as one's own, including copying and pasting from Google. Students should always turn in assignments that are presented in their own words. Students involved in plagiarism incidents of any sort will result in a zero for the assignment. **This also includes turning in work created by generative AI.** Upon the first incidence, students will be given an alternative assignment with the highest possible grade to earn being a 75. Upon the second incident, the student will receive a zero. Upon the third incident, the student will receive a zero and disciplinary action.

Classroom Library: As a teacher of young adults, I want you to know that I am sensitive to having appropriate reading material in my classroom library. That said, what is considered "appropriate" may vary from parent to parent. Some parents allow their children to choose their own reading material. Other parents may find certain subject matter, such as romantic situations, violence, or certain types of language to be objectionable for a teenager. Please be aware that the selections in my classroom library, just like any public library (as well as our school's library), range from elementary-level to early high school level reading material. I ask you, as a parent and your son or daughter's champion in reading for pleasure, to remain aware throughout the semester and beyond to the books your child has chosen to read and assist in gauging appropriateness.

Rest assured the books in my classroom library are NEVER assigned. They are checked out on a voluntary basis only. Some students use my library a lot; others find books elsewhere. From time to time, when asked by a student and with your permission, I may also suggest reading material based on numerous factors, including a student's interests and reading abilities. Any student who wishes to check out a book from my classroom library is asked to have a parent or guardian sign a permission slip (below) indicating that this classroom library notice has been read and understood. Please feel free to contact me any time if you ever have questions about what your student is reading.

Students Name: _____

Class: _____

Please **KEEP** the syllabus at home for reference. Please complete the check boxes below, sign, and return this page ONLY to class by _____.

Students will receive 3 PBIS points for returning this syllabus by the due date!

Library usage:

- Yes, my child has permission to use Mrs. Mullis’s classroom library.
- No, I would prefer that my child not have access to Mrs. Mullis’s classroom library. Parents/Guardians: if you choose this option, please discuss it with your son or daughter so that we do not have any misunderstandings in class.

Reading suggestions:

- Yes, I give permission to Mrs. Mullis to help my student choose his or her reading material. Mrs. Mullis may also refer my child to Ms. Brewer, the Media Specialist, for help.
- No, I would prefer only Ms. Brewer, the Media Specialist, or myself (parent/ guardian) to aid my child in choosing his or her reading material.
- I have read and understood Mrs. Mullis’s late work policy
- I have read and understand the expectations and consequences for Academic Integrity
- I have signed up for Mrs. Mullis’s text REMINDs. (classcode: @mullisela)

Student Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Anything you want me to know? _____
