# 8th Grade Language and Literature

## Mrs. Smalls

## Course Syllabus 2025–2026

### Course Description and Objectives

Welcome to your child’s 8th-grade Language and Literature class! I am thrilled to continue supporting your scholar’s academic journey. This year, we will focus on deepening critical thinking, analytical reading, and effective writing skills that align with Georgia’s K-12 English Language Arts (ELA) Standards, Language, Texts, and Practices. 8th Grade lessons will include real-world applications, collaborative learning, and creative expression to ensure mastery of grade-level standards.

### Textbook

HMH Into Literature – 8th Grade Edition

### Novels and Texts

- The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton  
- Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai  
- A Midsummer Night’s Dream (adapted) by William Shakespeare  
- Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (excerpts)  
- Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes  
- Selected HMH Stories and Informational Texts

### Unit/Concept Names

Unit 1: Poetic Techniques  
Unit 2: Argumentative Techniques  
Unit 3: Expository Technique

Unit 4: Narrative Techniques

Unit 5: Research & Analysis  
Unit 6: Review Unit

### Grading Policy

Minor Grades (65%): Classwork and Quizzes  
 - Minimum: 5 per 6-week period  
Major Grades (35%): Assessments, Essays, Projects  
 - Minimum: 2 per 6-week period  
Interactive Notebook (15%): Weekly notes and practice  
Grading Scale:  
 A (90–100) | B (80–89) | C (75–79) | D (70–74) | F (below 70)

### Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is essential. Plagiarism, cheating, or unauthorized use of AI tools will result in disciplinary action per the Student Code of Conduct.

### Late Work Policy

5% deduction per school day (up to 25%)  
After 5 days, acceptance is at teacher's discretion  
Communication is key students should notify the teacher of any issues

### Make-up Work

Students must request missed work upon return  
Work is due within 5 days unless otherwise arranged  
No tests/quizzes on the first day back if missed during absence

### Relearn & Reassess (R&R)

Available for major assessments  
Requires a relearning plan approved by the teacher and the parent  
Students scoring below 70 are expected to participate

### Classroom Expectations

Be on time, prepared, and respectful  
Follow all school rules, including the cell phone policy  
Participate actively and maintain a positive learning environment

### Required Materials

1. Pencils & Pens (black or blue ink)  
2. Highlighters  
3. Two composition notebooks  
4. 2-inch black binder with dividers  
5. Expo markers  
6. Colored markers  
7. Wired headphones

### Wish List

Disinfectant wipes  
Kleenex  
Hand soap  
Paper towels

### Contact Information

Email: smallni@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us  
Remind Codes:  
1st Period: @63243k2  
2nd Period: @328ge6k  
3rd Period: @98f283  
 4th Period: @27d6g8d  
School Phone: 706-737-7288

### Acknowledgment

Please sign and return this portion to confirm you’ve reviewed the syllabus:  
  
Student’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_