

8th grade Critical Thinking Syllabus 2023-2024

The City of Hialeah Educational Academy

Teacher: Mrs. Machado

Email: kmachado@coheaedu.com

Introduction:

Welcome to 8th Grade Reading. I am pleased to be your teacher for this course! This year we will be focusing on becoming better readers along with improving reading comprehension, vocabulary development, and writing skills. Students will improve their skills by reading informational and literary selections of increasing length and rigor. They will also answer comprehension questions in a variety of formats. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me. I look forward to an exciting year together!

Course Objectives:

8th grade Reading focuses on building the following skills and understandings:

- Narratives: reading, identifying parts of a narrative, and analyzing
- Reading comprehension strategies
- Identifying main ideas and details while reading
- Author's purpose
- Analyzing informational text and identifying/understanding thesis statements
- Argumentative writing/essays
- Analyzing literature, short stories, dramas, poems, and essays
- Improving vocabulary skills
- Test preparation strategies
- Communication skills

Class Format

Instruction will include a variety of formats. In this course you will engage in small group activities, graded discussion, in class reading, in class writing, dramatic presentations, peer review and activities, learning games, group projects and the presentation of audiovisual aides when appropriate.

ARRIVAL: Students are to enter the classroom quietly and begin the warm-up activity (Bell Ringer) on the board/digital board. Students must use this time to take out supplies and prepare for the lesson. No bathroom breaks will be allowed at the beginning of class.

DISMISSAL: Students are to make sure that they clean up after themselves before leaving the classroom. Please use wipes provided to clean the area. If books have been used volunteers will be selected to place

the books on the bookshelf. Students must wait to be dismissed by the teacher. The bell does not dismiss them.

TEXT:IReady Reading Workbook

Required Supplies:

The teacher may request additional supplies for specific projects throughout the school year.

- Organizational Strategy (Folder or Binder, USB Flash drive or Google Drive files)
- #2 pencils
- Black or blue pens
- Red pens
- Highlighters (different colors)
- Post-it Notes
- Glue sticks
- Markers
- Notebook
- Lined College ruled paper

Additionally, the following are **REQUIRED** throughout the entire school year:

- Any required novels. Please note that novels are subject to change; therefore, students should wait to purchase until instructed to do so.
- Access to the internet to utilize required sites, and an active email address (it will be the student's responsibility to remember their usernames and passwords)
- Accounts of the different websites needed for the course. (*Google Classroom, vocabulary.com, Commonlit, NoRedInk*)

Home Learning:

Home learning will be displayed weekly in class and graded weekly unless otherwise noted. Students should also stay up to date and aware of any changes made through Google Classroom. Students are expected to manage their time wisely, particularly with long term assignments like IReady, vocabulary.com, and NoRedInk.

Student Evaluation

Grades are based on the Miami-Dade County Grading Scale.

GRADING SCALE:

90 - 100 = A	4 pts.	3.5 - 4.0	average
80 - 89 = B	3 pts.	2.5 – 3.49	average
70 – 79 = C	2 pts.	1.5 – 2.49	average
60 – 69 = D	1 pt.	1.0 – 1.49	average
Below 59 = F	0 pts.	Below 1.0	average

Students are evaluated based on the criteria below:

- Major Assessments/Tests: 30%
- Minor Assessments/Quizzes: 25%
- Classwork: 20%
- Homework: 5%
- Projects/Essays/Cooperative Presentations: 20%

Class Rules

Bulldogs are ...

- prepared and on time.
- respectful of themselves, others, and the classroom.
- responsible in speech and action.
- hard workers and stay on-task.
- self-sufficient and follow instructions the first time.
- kind.

COHEA's Leadership Foundation

Honor: We will always...

- tell the truth.
- do the right thing.
- be team players.
- take responsibility for our actions.
- be hard working.
- be proactive, not reactive.

Respect: We will always ...

- respect the rights of others to learn.
- show respect for ourselves, our school, and others.
- conduct ourselves in a courteous and appropriate manner.
- be compassionate towards all members of the Bulldog Nation.
- Be considerate of others' opinions.

Loyalty: We will always ...

- care for others to build trust.
- help others reach their potential.
- steer clear of gossip.
- strive to be consistent and reliable.
- stay true to our words.
- be humble.

Classroom Expectations

- Be seated and prepared before the class bell rings.
- Bring all the necessary materials to class.
- Be respectful of classmates, teachers, and all staff.
- Participate and be attentive during classroom instruction.

- No cell phone use during class time. All cell phones will be collected during the first 15 minutes of class.
- No food or drink in class unless it is a sealed water bottle. (No food from the vending machine will be allowed).

Late Work

Per the school policy, late work resulting from Excused Absences will be accepted within the acceptable time frame. Work will not be accepted beyond the acceptable time frame of 3 academic school days. I reserve the right to input a "Z" in the grade book if the student does not attempt to make up the assignment.

Academic Dishonesty

No form of plagiarism, copying of work, or cheating will be tolerated! All assignments must be original work currently produced by the student. If a student is caught cheating, they will receive detention, a parent phone call, and reduced or no credit. Plagiarism will be dealt with similarly. Repeated offenses will result in a referral to the Dean of Discipline and guidance. Most assignments will be submitted via Google Classroom.

Attendance:

- Attendance is necessary in order to successfully pass the class.

Make-Ups:

- Late work will not be accepted unless authorized by the teacher. If work is not turned in on the day it is due the student will receive a **Z** for that assignment.
- If the teacher authorized the student to turn in work late, the grade received will be **no higher than a B** on the assignment if turned in on the authorized due date. If the student does not turn in work on the authorized due date, the grade will be a **Z** for that assignment.
- If the student has an excused absence, it is his or her responsibility to find out what work was missed from a peer or from the teacher. The student will then have the next class to complete the work.

8th Grade Critical Thinking Syllabus 2023-2024

Please return to this page as proof that you have read and understood the policies and procedures of your Reading class. This signed page should be turned in to Mrs. Machado, FOR A GRADE, no later than August 22nd, 2023. I, _____ in Period____, agree to meet all the expectations as stated in my syllabus, as well as understand that if I were to ever violate any of the rules, I shall accept the consequences of my actions

I have read the course requirements, rules, standards, and expectations for my class. I understand that academic integrity is expected. By signing this contract, I agree to all the information above.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____