

Cambridge Reading & Language Arts Syllabus

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Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge at Westwood Middle School

As a Cambridge International Center, Westwood Middle School is the **only** middle school in Alachua County that offers a standards-based curriculum. Westwood Middle School supplements the Florida Standards with the Cambridge Secondary I Curriculum. This curriculum encompasses a variety of international learning standards for children 11-14 in preparation for Cambridge Checkpoint Examinations.

Required Materials:

- Tab dividers: mentor sentences, classwork, tests/quizzes, article of the week
- Pencils (mechanical or regular with a handheld sharpener)
- Blue or black ink only
- Highlighters
- Notebook paper
- Safety scissors
- Glue stick

Novels for the course:

We will be reading the following novels throughout the school year. *It is up to the student to obtain these books; students may purchase the books or they may check them out of the school or local library.* You will be notified two weeks prior to the start of each novel unit.

7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey

Warrior's Don't Cry by Melba Pattillo Beals

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Textbooks:

The novels serve as the common texts in the course. Additional sources will be provided as supplemental resources to be used by students in our units of study. There will not be a textbook checked out to the student for the course.

Course Objectives:

Language Arts and Reading classes are designed to cover the standards required by the state, as well as provide an intense focus on specific standards. You may view these standards online at <http://www.floridastandards.org/index.aspx>. Cambridge is meant to teach these same standards at a more rigorous level than a regular course does. The pacing of the curriculum may move more quickly. The quantity and the quality of the work expected will be a higher level of expectation than regular courses at this grade level.

Class Expectations:

I expect each of my students to show respect for others and themselves. Each member of class will participate, cooperate with each other, and give their full attention to the task at hand. I expect you to actively engage in the learning process. If you give minimum effort, you will not do well in this class.

Homework:

Students will complete an article of the week each week. It will be assigned at the beginning of the week and will be due at the end of the week. Additional homework will be assigned as needed in this class. They may often need to finish class work that was not completed that day in class. You may check their planner to see what should have been completed in class that day.

Late Assignments Policy:

If you miss a day of school and therefore miss an assignment, you will have the number of days absent plus one to turn in the missed work. Work that was assigned prior to your absence and due the day you were gone will be due upon returning to class. **I DO NOT TAKE LATE WORK.** Please keep up with your assignments. If you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to get the assignments you missed and get caught up with the work.

Grading:

Classwork	50%
Skills	20%
Tests & Quizzes	30%

Classwork: includes any and all written assignments we complete in class such as essays, notes, handouts, worksheets, etc.

Skills: includes warm ups (mentor sentences), article of the week, and planner checks.

Tests & Quizzes: includes all assessments for the course.

Course Grading Scale:

90-100	A
87-89	B+
80-86	B
77-79	C+
70-76	C
67-69	D+
60-66	D
0-59	F

Additional Information: I reserve the right to make needed and appropriate adjustments in this syllabus.