

# 8th Grade Reading 2019-2020 Course of Study

Welcome to 8th grade Reading! This document outlines where we are going this year and the skills we will be honing. Reading is always an ongoing activity and if interesting articles or stories appear we may use those in class as well. The year is broken down as a timeline by quarter.

**Quarter One:** We begin the year with a series of true stories. Flight 93 is the riveting tale of how passengers stood up against terrorists. Along with Flight 93 we also read a series of non-fiction stories highlighting the strength of the human spirit. A short time in to Q1 we will begin the important non-fiction work *Night* by Eli Wiesel. *Night* chronicles one boy's experience during the Holocaust. Reading *Night* associated texts will take us to Fall Break.

**Quarter Two:** Q2 flies by! During this time crunched quarter we will complete our study of the book "Night" and associated non-fiction texts. We will also read classic short stories from our literature books including "The Tell-Tale Heart" and "The Monkey's Paw". We will also read a fan favorite play "The Dead Rising"

**Quarter Three:** After Christmas we kick off our study of the famous American novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is one of the most important books of the 20th century. The story of an African American man wrongly accused opened the eyes of people across the United States to the injustices going on in the Jim Crow south. Along with *TKAM* we will read numerous non-fiction pieces about the Civil Right movement and the experiences of Civil Right pioneers.

**Quarter Four:** We will finish *TKAM* and the associated non-fiction works. In addition we usually wrap up the year with teacher favorite short stories and reviewing important literary concepts.

**Ongoing Texts:** In addition to the above mentioned texts we will also explore current issues of Scholastic Scope, newspaper articles, and articles from the reading expert Kelly Gallagher. We may also use texts from the Pre-AP curriculum Laying the Foundations on an as needed basis.

**C3WP Initiative:**

Bardstown City Schools has been in partnership with the National Writing Project (C3WP) since the beginning of last school year. Students will engage in routine argument writing that will extend beyond our argumentative unit of study. This work will be completed in reading and writing classes.

Exposure to Routine Argument Writing	Writing and Revising Claims
Connecting Evidence to Claims	Making Moves With Evidence
Organizing/Ranking Evidence	Writing On-Demand Arguments
Making Civic Arguments	Writing and Revising Civic Arguments

**Reading Plus:**

Reading classrooms use ReadingPlus on average once per week. ReadingPlus has been shown across tens of thousands of students to increase reading comprehension and fluency for nearly everyone who spends time using it. Teachers may take a formative grade based on the use of ReadingPlus

**Learning Targets:**

Learning targets for reading literature and non-fiction texts repeat themselves. However, exploring theme or setting in one story may be a different experience than exploring the same concepts in a longer work. We have listed targets below but these are just a guideline. Reading is ongoing and each time we encounter a text we can take more from it.

**Grading Scale:**

We divide our grade book into 3 categories; Daily Work (60 %), Tests/Quizzes (40%), and Formative (0%). The formative category can be used to show growth on activities like ReadingPlus.