Course Title: Creative Writing

Course Tutor w/ contact information:
Mrs. Monika Lambert
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Course Texts: (Required)

Leap Write In!: Adventures in Creative Writing
Karen Benke
Roost Books, April 2, 2013
ISBN-10: 1611800153
Retail: $16.95

Unjournaling: Daily Writing Exercises
Cheryl Miller Thurston
Prufrock Press, January 1, 2006
ISBN-10: 1877673706
Retail: $14.95

Spilling Ink: A Young Writer’s Handbook
Ellen Potter
HarperCollins, March 30, 2010
ISBN-10: 159643628X
Retail: $9.99

Additional Course Resources:
(No purchase necessary)

Rory’s Story Cubes
GameWright

Story Sparkers
Educational Insights, 2007
Course Pre-Requisites: All students must submit a one paragraph (4-5 sentences) writing sample creatively describing what their favorite color “tastes” like. Submissions will be submitted online on Mrs. Lambert’s website on the Creative Writing Class Page. Submissions will be accepted from the end of May until the week before classes begin.

Course Description: 6th-8th grade. This course is the passport to gain entry into the wild and wonderful world of your imagination! Throughout your travels, you will learn how to develop memorable characters, invent nail-biting plots, write sparkling dialogue, and stir up poetic emotions without having to be held back by grammar limitations. Writing prompts, surveys, word play, and open-ended journal writing will also be incorporated into class. During Quarter Three, students will be writing their very own novella which will be published in a class anthology and made available in paperback! The poetry unit will begin in the fourth quarter. During this unit, students are required to maintain their poetry packets and bring them to class each week.

Get ready to let your creative juices flow and words soar!

Course Class Time:
Each class will begin with either a prompt, word puzzle, or stream-of-consciousness journal entry (3-5 minutes), followed by optional class shares (3-5 minutes). Next will be the introduction of the focus topic, new vocabulary, and teacher examples and expectations (10 minutes). The majority of the class time will be either independent writing or small group collaboration (20-30 minutes). Sessions will sometimes close with an “I Dare You” word play game, followed by the announcement of homework (5-10 minutes)

Course Homework Requirements: Check Website Twice Weekly!

Type:
A. When given, writing prompts will be posted online. These prompts are usually only 4-5 sentences and should take about 10 minutes or less to complete. Answers may be submitted directly online or hand-written in student’s journal to be submitted in class the following week.
B. Daily journal entries should only take 2 minutes and be written in a journal. These entries will remain private, but checked for completeness. Journal entries can be stream of consciousness writings or just daily thoughts and reflections.
C. Textbook assignments will be given to complete throughout the week as well. Students will get the page numbers one week in advance, but will also have access to the assignments online. Time: 10-20 minutes
D. Students will have projects throughout the semesters that will need to be completed at home, if not completed in class. Projects include: character development profiles, short story plots, newspaper articles, poetry journals, and draft revisions.
Volume: Daily journal entries should take about 2 minutes to complete. Textbook assignment time varies depending on the writing task 10-20 minutes each. Projects will be given ample time in class for questions and revisions, but will most likely take up the most time at home compared to the other assignments. During the short story unit, students will develop the basic story elements outline in class, but will be writing outside of the classroom. Throughout the week, students will be submitting their writing drafts/progress to Mrs. Lambert for checkpoints. It is crucial to check the website daily for updates and for assignment due dates and checkpoint dates.

Specific Requirements: Internet access is required for some assignments, but it absolutely necessary for Quarter Three Short Story Writing. Check Mrs. Lambert’s website weekly for homework and to contribute to the discussion blog. Internet access will also be needed to complete the short story assignment during the third semester. All students must use Google Docs to type their stories and use an active Gmail account. (More information will be provided at time of project.)

Grading:
Journal/Homework 30%
Quiz 15%
Projects 15%
In-Class Participation 40%

*Parents are not required to grade any assignments; however, please make sure to stay updated on the website and remind students to be responsible for their work. Parents are also encouraged to proofread students’ work for spelling/grammar errors, but remember to focus mainly on content and context.

Course Supplies:
1. Leap Write In! Adventures in Creative Writing, Benke, Karen 2013
2. Unjournaling: Daily Writing Exercises, Cheryl Miller Thurston 2006
3. Spilling Ink, Potter, Ellen 2010
4. Spiral bound notebook (1 subject)
5. Journal (Any blank, lined writing journal is acceptable. At least 5x7”)
6. Pencils and pens (any color ink except neons and yellow)
7. Colored pencils