

Language Arts 8

Ms. Varney | Dixie Middle School | 2026-2027

Welcome to 8th Grade English!

I am excited to begin a year of exploring literature, writing, and building critical thinking skills with you. ELA is designed for students who are curious, willing to challenge themselves, and eager to grow as readers, writer, and thinkers. My goal is not only to help students become stronger English students, but also more confident communicators and lifelong learners.

This course will challenge students to think deeply, ask meaningful questions, support ideas with evidence, and discover that literature can help us better understand ourselves and the world around us.

Meet your Teacher: Ms. Varney

This is my first year of teaching here at Dixie Middle School, and I am excited to meet you! I have lived (mostly) in the St. George area for the last 23 years. I love adventuring with my four daughters and going to concerts. Ask me what artist said "Music is Medicine," and you might get something :) The Lord of the Rings will forever have my heart, but I love reading lots of things. I expect all students to follow these simple rules:

- Be respectful of yourself, your classmates, and your teacher.
- Behave in a way that keeps yourself and those around you safe.
- Show up on time and prepared for class.
- Do your best. Not THE best. YOUR best.

Course Communication

trisha.varney@washk12.org
Dixie Middle School
435.628.0441

Grade Composition

Category	Weight
Classwork	30%
GVC Assessments	70%

Class Materials

- Writing Utensil
- Reading book of your choice
- Bring these things **EVERY DAY**

Homework?→ Yes

- If you do not finish work in class, it becomes homework.

Texts

Q1: Short Stories

- "The Princess and the Tin Box"
- "The Necklace"
- "The Interlopers"
- "Fish Cheeks"
- "The Sniper"
- Additional Selections

Q3: TBD + related Articles

Q2: TBD + related Articles

Q4: TBD + related Articles

**Selections may change based on class needs

Course Studies

- Narrative writing
- Independent reading
- Academic discussions
- Short Stories
- Literary Analysis
- Informational and argument writing
- Research and MLA Citation
- Poetry and figurative language

"Literature adds to reality, it does not simply describe it." — C.S. Lewis

Expectations, Procedures, etc

Procedures and Expectations

Be prepared

- Turn in assignments on time
- Check Canvas daily
- Check email for messages

Participate in class daily

- Work hard and keep trying—don't give up
- Bring required materials to class (pencil, book, etc.)
- Ask question
- Limit distractions (including with technology)

Be respectful and understanding of classmates and me

- Listen when others are speaking
- Stay in your assigned seat
- Conduct yourself appropriately

Additional Policies

- **NO PHONES** - school policy
- **Respect**= Kindness/thoughtfulness
- **Headphones** - you have to ask permission, they have to have a cord and plugged into the computer

Consequences

If a student chooses not to meet these expectations:

- ☐ **Verbal Warning**
- ☐ **Seat Change and Parent Contact**
- ☐ **Administrative Referral**

Absent and Late Work

- ★ If you are absent from class, **YOU** are responsible for making up any missing work. Everything we do in class is on Canvas, including a daily schedule and all assignments.
 - You will have an extension equal to the days you were absent to make up the work without a late penalty.
- ★ Assignments may be submitted after the due date until the 2 cutoffs each quarter (midterm and the end of the quarter).
- ★ Late assignments will receive a deduction of 3% a day to a maximum/minimum of 70%.

Plagiarism→Proof of Authorship:

Just don't. Seriously. Your work is expected to be **your own original thinking and writing.**

Plagiarism—including copying from the internet, using another student's work, or using AI to generate all or part of an assignment without permission—will not be tolerated. **If you used AI, copied/pasted it, or took someone else's ideas and presented them as your own, it is plagiarism.** The burden of proof is on the student; you may be asked to show drafts, version history, or demonstrate your understanding of the work in class.

Plagiarism will result in a **zero, parent contact, and a write-up.** At the teacher's discretion, a **first offense** may be redone using the student's original work for **up to 70% credit.** A **second offense will result in a permanent zero.** AI may be used only when specifically permitted by the teacher and must be acknowledged.

"Your work. Your voice. Your thinking. Own it."

I have read and understand the expectations, policies, and requirements for this course, and I agree to do my part to be successful.

Student Signature: _____

Language Arts 9

Ms. Varney | Dixie Middle School | 2026-2027

Welcome to 9th Grade English!

I am excited to begin a year of exploring literature, writing, and building critical thinking skills with you. ELA is designed for students who are curious, willing to challenge themselves, and eager to grow as readers, writer, and thinkers. My goal is not only to help students become stronger English students, but also more confident communicators and lifelong learners.

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Texts

**Selections may change based on class needs

Q1: Short Stories

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- "The Necklace"
- "The Interlopers"
- "Fish Cheeks"
- "The Sniper"
- Additional Selections

Q2: TBD + related Articles

Q3: TBD + related Articles

Q4: TBD + related articles



Course Studies

- Narrative writing
- Independent reading
- Academic discussions
- Short Stories
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