**Jasper Middle School**

**(706) 253-1760**

**8h Grade ELA**

**2017-2018 Syllabus**

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**Teacher:** Shelly Vincent shellyvincent@pickenscountyschools.org

**Course Description:**

The 8th grade ELA course is designed to improve the students' reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing skills. The ultimate goal is to prepare students for success in high school. All students will read and write intensively throughout this course. We will be working with a variety of complex literary and non-fiction texts with a heavy focus on Southern literature.

**Texts:**

* Georgia Collections by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
* Close Reader workbook by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
* Performance Assessment workbook by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
* Supplemental Reading Passages, Novels, Selected Short Stories, and Poems

**Class Goals:**

* Citing explicit textual evidence in strong support of text analysis
* Determining and analyzing the development of the theme or central idea of a text
* Analyzing both literary and informational texts
* Understanding an author's use of words, phrases, and shades of meaning in a text
* Analyzing and comparing/contrasting the structure of a text
* Analyzing how an author's point of view in a text impacts the development of the text and the reader
* Evaluating the advantages, disadvantages, differences in using different mediums to present information
* Evaluating an argument to determine the strength and relevance of the reasoning
* Writing effective summaries, arguments that use relevant evidence to support a claim, informational essays examining a topic, and descriptive well-structured narratives
* Engaging in effective collaborative discussions by building on other's ideas and clearly expressing personal opinions

**Grading Policy:**

Summative Assessments (40%)

Formative Assessments (60%)

**Class Expectations:**

* Accept responsibility for your education! *Next year, everything you do counts.* This is the year to pull it all together.
	+ Be organized
	+ Ask for help
	+ Accept the mistakes you make and the consequences, then do better
	+ Study and do the work
	+ Respect yourself, your classmates, and the teacher