



Class Syllabus

SY: 2026-2027

Teacher: Paula Ziemba

Grade Level: 5th

Subject: Reading/ELA

Contact Information: Please contact me via Class

Dojo pziemba@hha47.org

Welcome!

Hello! My name is Paula Ziemba, and I am so excited to welcome you to a new school year! This is my 6th year at HHA, and I feel very lucky to be part of such a wonderful community.

I am originally from Spain, and I am also a proud mom to three little girls. I look forward to getting to know you and making this a fun, positive, and successful year together!

Let's make it a great year!

Goals:

The goal of the **Reading Mastery: Transformations** program is for students to deepen their foundational reading skills by moving beyond reading for literal comprehension and towards literacy analysis.

The goal of the **6th Grade SpringBoard** program is to prepare students for the rigorous textual analysis expected in AP English courses.



Reading Overview:

Grade 5 Reading Mastery Transformations

This program exposes students to a variety of texts, such as well-known classics including *The Odyssey*, short stories, informational texts, and plays. Through these readings, students will focus on comprehension—literal, interpretive, and reasoning, literary devices, and text evidence. Some assignments will require students to write analytical, narrative, and/or evaluative pieces.

Grade 6 SpringBoard

This program exposes students to a variety of texts, including informational texts, novels, and poems. Through these readings, students will focus on higher-order critical thinking skills, deeper conceptual understanding, and accurate analysis and evaluation. In addition, students will be expected to write at least one response to each text read in class. Students may also participate in a flexible novel unit in place of one of the other units.

- Unit 1: Stories of Change
- Unit 2: The Power to Change
- Unit 3: Changing Perspectives
- Unit 4: Flexible Novel Study

Reading Supplies:

- 3-subject notebook (1 subject will be used for reading)
- Folder

Student Behavior and Expectations:

All students are expected to follow Hampstead Hill Academy's school-wide expectations, which state that students are to be respectful, responsible, safe, caring, and friendly.

Our 5th-grade students are introduced to HHA's unique middle school mindset by participating in *Leaders Getting Ready*.

Grading Policy:

Reading Mastery:

- Assessments Formative- 30% ●
- Assessments Summative- 20% ●
- Classwork - 30%
- Homework/Participation - 20%

Springboard:

- Assessments Formative - 30% ●
- Assessments Summative - 20% ●
- Classwork- 30%
- Homework/ Participation- 20%

**Homework:**

Homework will be assigned on a weekly basis via Google Classroom. Students will complete a reading log weekly. They have to complete 15 minutes of reading three days a week. They should answer a question provided as well. There is one bonus day for extra points. Homework assignments are due every Friday at 8:00 am and will be graded for accuracy. Late homework will not be accepted. If any student cannot access technology at home, please let me know, and I will give them a paper copy of the homework.

Make-up Work:

Missing work turned in one day late will be accepted for half credit. Students will be given an equal amount of time to finish missing work. (Ex: If the student missed one day, they will have one day to complete make-up work.) Students must provide an excusable reason for missing class from a parent or guardian.

Classwork assignments are posted on Google Classroom each day. If a student is absent, they should log in to Google Classroom and complete the assignment posted. If students have any trouble accessing their assignment, they should send an email to their teacher. If any student cannot access technology at home, please let me know, and we will find a solution.

Progress Reports:

Your child will receive a progress report each quarter (mid-quarter) to keep you informed of their grades. Please continue to check your child's Google Classroom and Infinite Campus for updates to their grades.

- Infinite Campus: <https://baltimore.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/bcps.jsp>

Newsletter:

Please visit <https://hha47.org> to view the monthly HHA Parents News Magazine.

Ongoing Communication:

- Class Dojo: www.classdojo.com
- School website: www.hha47.org
- Email: pziemba@hha47.org

