

7th Grade Reading Syllabus - 2020-2021

Mr. Gadus

Course Description: Reading and interpretation are essential skills that all students will need in high school, college, and life beyond school. The use of language is a powerful tool that people use to make sense of the world around them. The course is designed to develop students' vocabulary, improve critical thinking, inference and analysis skills. Students will be reading novels + engaging with writing at the 7-8th grade level. The novels and texts chosen for the course often focus on individuals facing challenges both ordinary and overwhelming and explore relevant themes that transcend the time periods they were written in. A student's grade will be based on a combination of classwork, homework, short quizzes (both vocab and content based), and tests (or equivalent projects)

Classroom Behavior:

RESPECT: All students will respect themselves, classmates + school personnel and their learning environment.

READINESS: All students attend class and come prepared to actively participate in daily activities with the required supplies. (Pen/Pencil, Chromebook, Binder, Class Novels, And H.W.)

RESPONSIBILITY: All students must accept responsibility for themselves and their actions in the classroom, hallways, and while using electronic devices in class.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Students will be required to read outside of class on certain days and engage with texts that deal with a variety of topics. As the year continues, students will gradually do more reading outside of the class.
- 2) Students complete in-class assignments, quizzes, and tests to the best of their ability.
- 3) Students will also be required to complete homework assignments and an individual project outside of class.
- 4) Students will participate in various verbal discussions, they will provide evidence from the book/texts to support their opinions.

By the end of this year, you will grow in your ability to (Based on Standards):

Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).

By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grade 6–8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Texts For Reading Class: (There will be a book fee so students can keep/own their books)

Glencoe Literature - Course 2 (Textbook - Used In Class As Class Set) Includes Short Fiction, Poetry, Non-Fiction

Novels (1 Per Quarter):

***The Giver* By Lois Lowry (1993) - Themes - Individuality, Emotion, Sanctity of Life, Growing Up**

***Stella By Starlight* By Sharon M. Draper (2015) - Themes - Racism, Equality, Coming of Age**

***The Lord of The Ring: The Fellowship of the Ring* By J. R. R. Tolkien (1954) - Themes - Sacrifice, Comradery, Journeys.**

Note: LOTR will be a cross curriculum experience with religion class (Q3)

***The Outsiders* By S. E. Hinton (1967) - Family, Social Class Division, Privledge**

Poetry will be taken from a variety of sources

Additional Nonfiction/Short Fiction Excerpts and stories.

CHEATING, COPYING AND PLAGIARISM:

Just don't do it!!! Cheating, copying and plagiarizing are forms of dishonesty. Students caught copying will receive a zero for the assignment or test. This includes copying a source from the internet without giving proper credit. Additionally, allowing someone to copy your completed paper will result in a zero for all parties involved.

Need Some Additional Help?

I am available before (by appointment) and after school daily (3:00 - 3:30) . Do not hesitate to ask for help! I am always willing to discuss sections of a book or provide support on an assignment.

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Parent/Guardian:

To ensure that you are aware of the course rules and procedures, please review/check over the course syllabus. Once you have done so, please sign and return this form to class with your student. This form is the first homework assignment of the year (5 Points) and is due on **Friday 8/28/20**.

Student Name (Please Print)

I have read the course syllabus. I understand the expectations and requirements of reading class.

Parent/Guardian: _____ **Date:** _____

Student: _____ **Date:** _____