

NORTH SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL
ENGLISH 7 COURSE INFORMATION

TEACHERS: Mrs. Hoagg and Mrs. Kappes

Course Description:

In English 7 different themes, such as survival, growing up, and individuality, are stressed and explored through a variety of literature genres; these include novels, short stories, science fiction, non-fiction, drama, and poetry.

In addition to literature and reading comprehension, a great deal of emphasis is placed on improving writing skills. You will learn how to support your statements and develop your ideas in an organized format. Furthermore, a strong foundation in grammar will be stressed throughout the year. Some of the essays will be written over the span of a week, while others will be written in one period - a timed situation in preparation for the ELA state exam given in the spring.

Reading comprehension, as mentioned above, is a very strong component of seventh grade. Utilizing text evidence, you will learn to support selections you make when completing any reading comprehension assessment. Furthermore, you will be asked to go beyond the obvious printed text, drawing conclusions and making connections to not only your own lives but also between different genres. Composition, both formal literature-based essays and creative writing, will evolve from novels and stories read and discussed in class and at home.

Homework Policy:

Reading assignments are an integral part of success in English 7. Please keep up with them. Any written homework is graded using a number system from one to five, with five being the highest. Homework assignments turned in on time and done *neatly and completely* will be given a five. Homework that is reviewed in class on the due date will not be accepted late, and a grade of zero will be given. You will have *one day* to make up any assignment not reviewed in class, and will lose one homework grade for being late. Every attempt will be made to get the homework on the internet; however, writing your homework down in your agenda is the most reliable and accurate source for assignments.

Notebook Policy:

You are expected to keep a three-ring binder with tabbed dividers. Class time will be given to help you organize and maintain your notebook.

Attendance/Tardiness:

You must make up work missed due to an absence from class or school. It is **your** responsibility to find out what work you missed. Additionally, you are expected to be in class on time. If you are late, you must secure a note from the office or the teacher

who detained you to enter class after the tardy bell. Following school procedures: three unexcused "latenesses" are reported for a detention - as are any cuts. Also, please see the district policy on attendance.

Grading Policy:

- Writing (essays, projects, creative assignments): Counted twice like a test grade
**10 points deducted for each day late; writing assignments more than five days late will not be accepted*
- Tests (most involve writing): Counted twice
- Quizzes: Counted once
- Homework: 15% of grade

*Writing assignments will be retained in your writing folder.

Text Titles:

Grade 7 Anthology - Literature: *The Reader's Choice - Course 2 - Glencoe Literature Series*

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Extra Help Days and Locations:

These will be posted in the classroom.

Helpful Suggestions:

- Keep up with required reading.
- Turn all assignments in on time.
- Attend *and* participate in class regularly.
- Ask for help when you need it - before, during, or after class.

Contacts:

Mrs. Hoagg:

914-669-5414 x2136

lhoagg@northsalemschools.org

Mrs. Kappes:

914-669-5414 x2160

gkappes@northsalemschools.org