

Language Arts 7th Grade

CLASS SYLLABUS

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Class Texts:

The Outsiders (Hinton)
Touching Spirit Bear (Mikaelson)

Other Mentor Works:

Rick Reilly Editorials/Articles
Kelly Gallagher “Article of the Week”
Various Children’s Literature & Poetry

Website:

crossroadsla7.weebly.com
classroom.google.com

updated info, links, printable copies of class assignments
Google classroom for turning in assignments

Course Grades:

Assessments: 70% Assessments will occur periodically throughout the semester and may take the form of a test, a project, or a written essay.

Assignments: 30% Assignments will occur more frequently and may also be known as daily work or “homework”

**Note - Final grades will be comprised of course grades (90%) and the semester exam (10%).*

Assignments: Much of the formative practice (assignments), which is preparation for assessments, will not be graded. This is daily work students are assigned to help them grow personally and to help the teacher better understand the strengths and weaknesses of each student. Assignments are not listed on the syllabus for good reason. All assignments will be based on the needs of the class. Students may have a short paragraph to write or a few questions to answer for the next day’s discussion. In any case, this is important work that students are expected to complete. Assignments must be turned in during class on the due date without exception.

Assessments: Assessments will occur less frequently throughout the semester, and they are listed on the next page of the syllabus. These assessments are summative in nature and are designed to measure the performance and show the skills that a student has mastered throughout a unit. Essays and projects that fall under the category of “assessments” may be turned in late if I have been notified ***prior to the due date***. If a student receives an unsatisfactory grade for an assessment (with the exception of exams), the assessment may be retaken. Before a retake the student will be required to spend time with the teacher for remediation. Retakes must be scheduled within a reasonable time period (two weeks) of the original assessment date.

Choice Reading: Choice reading is a foundational expectation for this course. The most important preparation for high school and college, as well as for a successful life, is to read! Students will be expected to do extensive outside choice reading, which will be monitored in class through teacher conferences and written responses. Grades will be based on both the quantity of reading as well as the periodic reading reflection activities.

Final Exams: All students will take a semester exam worth 10% of the overall semester grade. The exam will assess the various topics and material covered throughout the semester.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Quarter 1

Launching the Reading Workshop and Building “Wide Awake Readers”

September	8-11	Goal setting; pretests; introductions and routines; icebreakers
	14-18	Levels of thinking practice using Children’s Lit; Annotating texts practice using AOW
	21-25	Annotating & Levels of Thinking Test ; Small moment memoirs

Narrative Writing: Realistic Fiction

	28-2	Generating story ideas; Understanding plot structure; Creating conflict
October	5-9	Narrative style; Using dialogue and movement, developing characters
	12-16	Narrative style; Pacing by exploding a moment or fast forward
	19-23	Realistic Fiction Stories Due ; Narrative On-Demand Final

Reading The Outsiders, Literary Analysis, and Writing Companion Books

	26-30	Begin Reading <i>The Outsiders</i> ; Character Analysis; Choice Reading Response
Quarter 2		
November	2-5	<i>The Outsiders</i> Reading & Comprehension Check; Theme Analysis
	9-12	Finish <i>The Outsiders</i> ; Outsiders Quiz ; Plot Structure and Analysis; Review Setting
	16-20	Discuss Author’s Craft; Begin working on Companion Books
	23-24	Theme notebooks; Thanksgiving Activity; Turkey Trot
December	30-4	Writing Workshop; Completed Companion Book Due

Nonfiction Reading & Research: Social Activism

	7-11	Exploring social issues and activism; Articles and online reading; Change.org
	14-18	Choosing an activist; How to research and take notes; Citing sources
January	4-8	Create and share new knowledge - Social Activist Presentations
	11-15	Reading Ladder; Informational On-Demand; Review and work on exam packet
	18-22	Semester review; Exam Packet; Semester Exam!

Annotated Reading & Response	100
Narrative Realistic Fiction Story	100
<i>The Outsiders</i> Reading Comprehension	50
Literary Analysis Companion Book	100
Social Activist Presentations	100
Choice Reading Response	50
Reading Ladder	100