

Ms. Pohl
English/Language Arts 7
2016-2017 Course Syllabus and Expectations
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Course Overview

One of the main goals of this course is to introduce students to a wide variety of different texts, writing styles, and approaches to language. Through a diverse array of activities, students will become comfortable reading different types of texts for different purposes, writing for a wide assortment of reasons and audiences, and interacting with the structure of language in a way that is relevant and accessible. Throughout the year, students will explore different strategies for reading, as well as develop and strengthen their own writing skills. Students will also practice speaking/presenting skills, as well as honing their listening skills by engaging with a wide variety of resources.

Class time will be spent in diverse ways including: reading various texts and resources, writing about texts or for reflection, writing creatively, discussion, note-taking, researching, and expanding upon critical-thinking skills. Students will be encouraged to pose problems, present solutions, challenge ideas, and ask questions throughout this course.

Required Supplies

- A 1” binder designated solely for this class
 - 5 dividers (Assignments, Vocab, Grammar, Reading, Writing)
- College-rule or wide-rule paper (to be replaced as needed)
- Pencils
- A planner or agenda—the one the school provides is great!
- Another helpful supply that is **not** required: a flash drive (to be shared with other classes)
- A pack of Post-It Notes OR a pack of notecards OR a \$5 donation for miscellaneous classroom supplies/new books for The Book Lion’s Den Library (these supplies are **optional** and **only** if you can help supply our classroom 😊)

Texts

- Students will be responsible for any damage to or loss of books lent by the school.
- Students may purchase any of the books we read if they would like their own copy—they will be responsible for bringing the text to class every day. Students may also use a Kindle or other reading device under the following terms: the device must be charged and in class every day, the device is not a distraction during class, and students understand that it is their responsibility to keep their device secure throughout the day.
- The books we’ll be reading this year:
 - *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
 - *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London
 - *The Call of the Wild Graphic Novel*
 - *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
 - *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
 - *Milkweed* by Jerry Spinelli
 - *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys
 - Various independent texts

Classroom Expectations

- Be on time to class! Tardiness interferes with your learning and your peers’ learning.
- Bring **all** materials to class, every day. Continual “can I go to my locker?” will be reflected in the participation portion of your grade.
- Water and tea are the **only** drinks allowed. **No snacks.**
- Cell phones need to be silent and out of sight at all times. Music will be allowed occasionally during independent work-time, otherwise they need to stay out of sight.
- This classroom will be a place where students feel safe, comfortable, and free to be themselves. I will not

tolerate behavior that is hurtful or inappropriate. We will have many activities and discussions where all students are expected to participate—they should feel comfortable doing so without fear of judgment from their peers or teacher.

Homework Assignments/Late Work

- Homework will be posted on the board and on the website daily. Students are expected to copy down the homework in their agenda/planner.
 - **On the website: red = due dates, green = in-class work, and purple = miscellaneous (holidays, special schedules, etc.)**
- Incomplete/missing work will not be accepted. Students have the opportunity to take responsibility for their missing assignments by completing Form Q (Missing Assignment Route) and submitting the assignment late. Unexcused late assignments will have a final score *reduced by 10%* for each day it is late.
 - Form Q allows students to devise a plan with the teacher for completing/submitting the missing assignment. If students complete their “route” as planned, the assignment points *will only be reduced by 5%*.

Attendance

Frequent absences hinder students’ ability to be successful in class—students should make every effort to attend class every day. However, sometimes absences cannot be avoided: the following policies are in place to help ensure student responsibility for their work during absences, as well as offer consistency for all student absences.

- If a student is absent the day an assignment is due, it needs to be turned in the day the student returns.
- If a student is absent the day an assignment is given, the student will have as many days as he/she is absent to turn it in (Ex. if a student is absent for two days when an assignment is given, the student will have two days beyond the due date to turn it in).
 - If a student has prior knowledge of a major assignment and misses days between the day the assignment was given and the due date, he/she is still expected to hand in the assignment *on time* unless other arrangements have been made.
 - Students and parents are always welcome to email me or talk to me in person if other special arrangements need to be made.

Extra Help

I will be at school from 7:45-3:45 each day. I am willing to meet with students during these times, or before/after these times with prior arrangements. If students need help with an assignment, they should come see me **before** that assignment is due. I will also offer workshops that will focus on specific skills. These will be open to all students, although some students will be invited to come for extra assistance if needed. Email is the best way to get in touch: epohl@northlandprep.org

Grading

Final grades for each semester will be comprised of both quarter grades, 45% each, plus the final exam/Portfolio worth 10%. Within each quarter grade, students’ grades will be broken up **approximately** in the following way in a whole point system:

- Portfolio Assignments-----45%
 - These are the largest assignments, and will occur at least once per quarter. These assignments will be complex, include a significant written component with multiple drafts, and some will include a presentation component.
- Temple of Books-----35%
 - ToB will be the independent book exploration that students will complete throughout the year. See handout for additional information.
- Everything Else-----20%
 - Students will be conducting ongoing vocab study that will be related to the current unit. Vocab assignments will come in a wide variety. Students will also complete journaling and small homework assignments. This also includes participation and organization.

Parents and Students,

Thank you for reading through the syllabus and expectations for this course. Students should keep this copy in their binders for future reference, or refer to the copy on the website. **All materials need to be in class by Monday, August 15th.** Please fill out the following information and **return no later than Monday, August 15th.**

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We have read through and discussed the syllabus and expectations and understand what is expected throughout the year.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE write legibly so that we can easily contact through email. If more than one person should be emailed (both parents, step-parents, other legal guardians, etc.), please fill in the information with that person's name, relationship to student, and email.

Primary Email: _____

Other Emails:
