

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

⚡ Welcome to Literature 7! I am really looking forward to this school year. I'd like to take a moment of your time to tell you about the class and what to expect.

⚡ Literature 7 is designed to improve students' reading ability and attitude. If your student already enjoys reading, wonderful! If not, we're going to work on that - I promise! This class is designed to make students enjoy what Literature has to offer. The environment in the room is about learning and respecting others. I encourage discussion and participation, however, we **must** maintain a quiet atmosphere when appropriate to support our reading and communicating endeavors! Cooperation is the key!

Policies - An Equal Opportunity to Learn:

⚡ To ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to learn in my classroom, I have four VERY IMPORTANT policies. They are described below:

One Voice - When someone is speaking during class, only 'one voice' should be heard.

Respect - In Literature class, everyone will be treated fairly and respectfully.

High Expectation - "Do your personal best" is the expectation for everyone in Literature class.

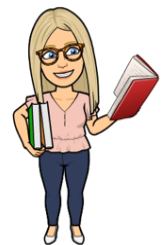
Responsibility - It is essential to come to class prepared with all materials needed each day.

⚡ I cannot express enough how important these policies are to managing an organized classroom in which everyone feels welcome. Ultimately, students will face disciplinary consequences if they cannot follow these policies. Speaking out of turn, and/or disrespecting others are simply NOT options!

Class Curriculum:

⚡ The curriculum for this class is simple - Read, Read, Read! You can expect that the following curricular components/activities will be included:

- Reading 6 full novels, a short story, and one abridged novel (all materials given in digital .PDF format):
 - The Liberation of Gabriel King - K.L. Going
 - Stargirl - Jerry Spinelli
 - The Cay - Theodore Taylor
 - A Christmas Carol - abridged ed. - Theresa Race Hoffman
 - Yellow Star - Jennifer Rozines
 - The Landlady - Roald Dahl (short story)
 - The Vesting Game - Ellen Raskin
 - Island of the Blue Dolphins - Scott O'Dell
- Reading informational text selections that coordinate with novels
- Comparing/contrasting modern media with literary works
- Learning/studying vocabulary throughout ALL units
- Incorporating technology-based projects, research, and online reading



- Participating in mini-lessons that focus on key literary concepts and/or terms
- Creating 4 Book Talk Slideshows (1 per marking period) based on student chosen silent reading material

Reader's Workshop and Silent Reading:

⚡ We will incorporate Reader's Workshop as much as possible in class. The format for this technique includes the following three-step process. 1.) Mini lesson guided by the teacher focusing on a key literary concept or term. 2.) TIME to read silently ANY book of the student's choice. Students must be prepared with a book! (The school library will be available for book selections.) This is not homework time, it is time to enjoy reading. 3.) Individual and group conferences designed to get students to talk about their reading and share ideas.

⚡ Sometimes, the formal 3-step process for Reader's Workshop may not be used. Instead, students will simply be given time for silent reading. **Students should always be prepared with something to read.**

⚡ Students will formally report each semester on a book selection that they have been reading during silent reading time. The report format, referred to as a "Book Talk," will be given as a SlideShow.

Grading:

⚡ I grade everything in the class on a "total-points" scale. This means that if a student earns 362 points out of 380 points possible, I would divide 362 by 380 to get an average of 95% in the class, equivalent to an A. From time to time, I do offer extra credit points. Extra credit opportunities will ALWAYS incorporate current curricular concepts being covered in the class.

Homework, Absent Work, and Supplies:

⚡ I do not assign random homework. "Homework" stems from work that was started, but not finished in class. All reading is done in class, and .PDF versions of all novels are available on Google Classroom. If a student is absent or wishes to re-read material and online content cannot be accessed, the student may make arrangements with me to take a book home. Assignments are digital and available online, with very few exceptions. If a situation arises and a printed copy of work is needed, accommodations can be made.

⚡ Do not confuse a lack of "assigned homework" with your student having nothing to do at home for Literature 7. Remember, students can always be encouraged to read at home!

⚡ In terms of supplies, students will ALWAYS need a book to read in class. It is essential that a silent reading book is always brought to class. ***In addition, boxes of tissues and/or disinfectant wipes are a welcome donation!***

Film Media:

⚡ A requirement of 7th grade literature, set by the Michigan Department of Education, is for students to compare literature to media. Students will compare and contrast novels to movies/plays that carry the same theme. Movies are selected based on the direct relationship they carry with a particular novel. The movies shown will be rated PG and may include, but not be limited to, "Happy Feet," "The Cay," "Clue," and "Disney's A Christmas Carol." If you do not want your

son/daughter to view these movies, please notify the classroom teacher, and an alternate assignment will be provided.

Contact and Communication:

⚡ I know it's going to be a successful year. I wish you luck on all your athletic and academic endeavors. The quickest way to contact me is via email - capling@idaschools.org however, I'm also available by phone, (734) 269-2220, ext. 2009.

Sincerely, Anne Capling