**Ms. Carpenter’s 7th Grade Literacy Class**

Class Website: <http://nandovecarpenter.weebly.com/>

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*Please feel free to contact me as often as you need. E-mail is the best way to get in contact; however, I am always willing to set up meetings/conferences as needed.*

**Classroom Procedures and Expectations**

**Year at a Glance:**

This is our third year in 7th grade literacy with the new, rigorous curriculum. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns you may have. The three novels that will be used this year are *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary Schmidt, an abridged version of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, and *The Outsiders* by SE Hinton. Weekly academic assignments will include annotating, a variety of writing styles as well as literary and media analysis.

**Class Goals:**

-To develop students' competence as readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and viewers of various texts and media.

--To read and ANALYZE a variety of texts both non-fiction and fiction as well as classics and modern literature.

--To prepare students to become higher level readers and writers and to heighten their communication skills so they will become literate citizens: successful both inside and outside of the classroom.

**Classroom Rules and Expectations:**

RESPECT is the number one rule in my classroom. Respect the classroom and what’s in it, respect yourself, and respect others. Have a positive attitude. Do your best at all times and do it with INTERGRITY! In addition, to be successful in this class, each student must be prompt, prepared, polite, patient, and productive. Students are expected to be active participants in daily activities. I will provide a positive and engaging classroom where every student has the opportunity to learn and maximize their potential! REMEMBER: The Golden Rule ALWAYS APPLIES. In addition, all Redlands Middle School rules apply in my classroom. OWN YOUR LEARNING!!!

**Supplies Necessary for Literacy Class:**

-Three ring binder (preferably with the slip cover in front)

-Composition notebook for brainstorming and a spiral notebook for journaling

-Three prong folder

-paper and pencils (LOTS!)

-Glue sticks and scissors

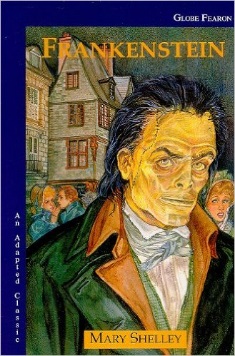
-Dividers

-Highlighters and/or colored pencils (if possible but not mandatory; we use them for annotating often)

-Sticky Notes (the smaller ones are more efficient for annotating purposes)

-Colored Copy Paper (if possible but not mandatory)

\*\*\*Please try to get your own copy of each of the three novels we will be covering this year so you can highlight and annotate in them. The abridged *Frankenstein* book is the most difficult to find; Amazon.com is the easiest place to find it. The ISBN# is 0-8359-1116-0. Here is a picture of the (purple) cover:



**Thinker’s Notebook:**

District 51 7th grade literacy curriculum requires that each student must keep a three ring binder and a composition notebook designated for literacy only. These two items are a working portfolio of all of your learning throughout the year. The three ring binder will house any handouts I give to you and your returned, graded work. The composition book is where you will write down all your thinking and brainstorming. The “Thinker’s Notebook” represents a record of your learning and growth in literacy and is a district wide mandate. We will house final drafts of writing in the three prong folder. This also will be a way to continually see your growth throughout the year, and it will be a useful tool for you and your parents/guardian when parent teacher conferences are held.

**Grades and Homework:**

I highly encourage Student/Parentvue, if you are not already set up. Homework will be assigned at various times throughout the year. If students don’t finish their in-class assignments during the class period, then those assignments are homework for that evening. If parents are concerned with homework not getting done or home, I am happy to sign planners for accountability purposes.

* Two types of grades will be given to students on assignments: one demonstrating content knowledge and the other is a learning behavior grade.
* The first grade is a content knowledge grade called a Grade Level Expectation (GLE) grade which is based on how proficient a student is based on the standards. This is purely an academic grade.
* The second grade is a Learning Behavior (LB) grade which will be based on a student’s work ethic on the assignment. Students will also have weekly Learning Behavior grades which reflect their Collaboration, Work Ethic, Civic Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility.
* **Students have the opportunity to improve all GLE grades**, but they will not be able to re-do an LB grades.

**Re-Takes:**

Before a student can do a re-take they have to schedule a time to come practice with me one on one. You have two weeks after the assessment was given to improve that score, but you must schedule a re-learning session with me first.

**Absences and Tardy Students:**

Work missed due to an absence is the responsibility of the student. REMEMBER, do not ask me for work during class time! See me BEFORE or AFTER school. My website is a great resource for students and parents if you are missing any assignments. My website is updated weekly and will have all the assignments available to download if you are absent. Additionally, please refer to your planner for the school wide tardy policy/procedure.

**A Special Parent Note about Independent Reading:**

Research reveals that a middle school student needs about 30 to 35 minutes of independent reading each day to stay on grade level. District 51 mandates that literacy students read independently every day, a text of their choice, for a portion of ELA class. In 7th grade we generally do this at the beginning of each class for 20 minutes. Weekly reading logs will accompany independent reading. Students will attend library orientation the second day of school so they can check out a book for this purpose, but students are welcome to bring books from home to read. I also have a classroom library with a check out system available for students. Throughout the year I help students find books at their instructional reading level in an area of interest to them, however I cannot possibly monitor what every student is reading every day. There is a vast amount of young adult literature available to students today, and while this is a positive thing, there may be content in some books that is inappropriate for your child. Please be aware of that and monitor what your child is reading!

Let’s have a GREAT YEAR!!!! ☺

*Expectations will continue to be noted throughout the year. The teacher reserves the right to change/add/delete classroom expectations as she sees fit to ensure a productive learning environment for everyone.*