

7th Grade English/Language Arts Course Syllabus

Mrs. Wendel

2006-2007

E-mail Address: amy.mccarty@dripping-springs.txed.net

Telephone Voice Mail Number: 858-4902 ext. 707

Conference: **A Days: 8:45 – 10:10 a.m.**
 B Days: 10:15 – 11:45 p.m.

Course Synopsis: Seventh grade language arts students study literature and the process of writing in a workshop setting. Students learn vocabulary, as well as literary elements and analysis, through the study of teacher-selected literature. Students demonstrate mastery of these elements by writing in a variety of genres. Students devote class and homework time to personal reading in books they choose with parental approval to improve speed, comprehension, and enjoyment of reading. Students will work independently and in small groups on projects that will allow them to take responsibility for their own learning.

Textbooks/Additional Curriculum Items: Holt, Rinehart, Winston Elements of Literature; Barrett Kendall English: Communication Skills in the New Millennium; teacher selected/SIT committee-approved novels: The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton; The Dark Side of Nowhere by Neil Shusterman; A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens; and Downriver by Will Hobbs. Copies of these materials are available for your review if you so desire.

Note: Our textbooks are an important part of our class. Because they are very expensive, they should be covered at all times to prevent damage (please refrain from using book covers containing self-adhesive products). Fill out the **textbook condition report** carefully since damages to all texts will be assessed at the end of the school year. Barrett-Kendall textbooks and class novels will not be issued but will be available for student check out. The Holt, Rinehart Winston textbook costs \$49.95; the Barrett-Kendall costs \$43.00.

Videos: We show the following videos to enhance our regular curriculum:

<i>The Outsiders</i>	Rated PG-13
<i>The Birds</i>	Not Rated
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Not Rated
<i>Hoodwinked</i>	Rated G

Supplies: In addition to the 7th grade supplies listed on the middle school supply list, language arts students need a 70 page spiral notebook for journaling. **Please bring this to class no later than Monday, August 21.**

Grading Procedures:

Tests/Essays:	50%
Quizzes/Reading Logs:	30%
Daily Work:	20%

Homework Policy: Homework reinforces skills learned in class, provides an opportunity to complete long-term assignments in small “chunks,” and allows students to complete work started at school or to prepare for an upcoming lesson. Since reading and writing rates vary greatly among seventh graders, homework time is hard to predict. If students use their class time and advisory period wisely, they should not need to

spend more than 15-20 minutes (on the average) each night on language arts activities. If your student is consistently spending more than 25 minutes on homework for this class each night, please contact me.

SSR (Sustained Silent Reading): SSR is a reading program in which students are required to read everyday in class and record reading time on a Personal Reading Log. We believe that daily reading will improve reading rate, comprehension, and vocabulary and will foster a joy for reading. In addition to reading in class, they are also required to read additional hours each week at home, or anywhere an adult can sign the reading log, which will count as a **quiz grade**. The book they read must be acceptable to the parent. Magazines and items on the internet do not count towards outside reading time.

Make-up Work: When returning from an absence, students are responsible for getting any work assigned while they were gone. Students should locate me the morning of their return to receive make-up work. Work assigned before an absence is due the day a student returns to class.

Late Work Policy: All assignments must be completed by students. If a student chooses to turn in late work:

- Turned in by 4:00 p.m. on due date = -10 pts.
- Turned in 2 – 5 days late = -30 pts.
- After 5 days = Student earns a 0 for the assignment

(Special late work policies may apply to essays, projects, and portfolios.)

Assignment Logs: Students will record all assignments in their Assignment Log, which will be checked daily and used as a hall pass. **Students must bring their assignment log to every class, every day!** The log will also be used as a hall pass, and students may replace missing logs at the cost of \$4.00 in the Front Office.

Tutorials: Each morning, at least one 7th grade English teacher will be available for tutorials. Check teachers' doors for schedule.

DSMS Campus Discipline Plan: DSMS uses a campus-wide discipline management plan based on major and minor disruptions. Students will contact a parent from the classroom phone after three minor infractions or one major incident. Teachers will present this plan to students during the first week of school.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Please feel free to contact me any time you have questions or concerns; I welcome parental input and interest. E-mail is more efficient and immediate, but you may contact me via our voice mail system as well. If necessary, we can schedule a conference. Teachers and parents may use Assignment Logs as a communication tool.

Meet the Teacher Night: I look forward to meeting you at Meet the Teacher Night on Tuesday, August 29, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

AFTER READING THIS SYLLABUS, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE THIRD PAGE TO MRS. WENDEL NO LATER THAN MONDAY, AUGUST 21.

Student Information Sheet for Mrs. Wendel's English class

Parents: Thank you for taking the time to fill out one more form!

Student Name

Does student have a computer at home? _____ printer? _____ internet? _____

Preferred method of communication: _____ phone _____ e-mail _____ note home

Parent/Guardian Name

Best phone # to contact you between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Parent e-mail address

Parent initials as they will appear on reading logs: _____

****I have read and understand the course syllabus for English. I agree to do my part to use the Student Assignment Log as a method of parent/teacher communication to ensure that homework is completed and returned on time.****

Parent/ Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

If there is additional information about your child that you would like to discuss or share with me, please use the space below, e-mail me or call to arrange a conference.

**PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO MRS. WENDEL
NO LATER THAN MONDAY, AUGUST 21!**