

**Student Handout**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts and Literature**  
**Curriculum Syllabus and Class Procedures**

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Dear Student,

Welcome to English language arts and literature class with Mrs. Brown! I am pleased to be one of the teachers here at Woodside, and I feel very fortunate that each and every one of you is in my class this year. Together we will explore the Common Core standards for 7th grade language arts, writing, and literature.

This year we will read many core literature novels, short stories, plays, poetry and informational selections from online sources, articles, magazines and speeches. We will also write for fun, but we will also cover personal narrative, argument essays, research and informational reports. In class we will have time for reading, writing, grammar, and project work, but outside of class you will do your independent reading, studying, completing assignments not already finished in class, and the occasional book project.



I want you to know my goals for you as my student is to develop a love of learning and to become an independent thinker and a lifelong learner. To help you reach these goals I have carefully planned my lessons so they are inspirational and interesting at the same time. It is important to know that I care deeply about your success in my class, so I will be offering office hours for advice, assistance or just to talk!

Our main anthology text is *Holt Language Arts and Literature* and our grammar book is *Warriner's Handbook*. Here is a list of many of the books we will read this year:

- *The Circuit*, Francisco Jimenez
- *The Outsiders*, SE Hinton
- *The Pearl*, Steinbeck
- *Romeo & Juliet*, William Shakespeare
- *The Hobbit*, JRR Tolkien

I would like if you wouldn't read these books in advance, however, if you've already read them please don't worry. We tend to go very deeply into the text to explore various ways authors develop their style so it will be a new way of looking at the book!

**Here are my class expectations:**

- Be Ready to Learn - Make sure you have classroom materials (binder, books, pencils, etc.) and a good attitude!
- Be Safe - Follow the Woodside Middle School Handbook school rules
- Be Responsible. Do your assignments – check the website, call a friend; email your teacher
- Be Respectful to your teacher, classmates, and school property
- Be Kind to one another. Please don't interrupt when someone is speaking, help one another, and treat everyone as an equal.
- Be Thoughtful and tidy up the classroom before you leave class
- Be your own Best Advocate - Let me know if I can help you with something or if you are not feeling well



**Some classroom and studying tips:**

- Try your personal best each day; Work hard in class and at home to learn all that you can
- Read every day! Challenge yourself to a variety of genres
- Find a quiet place to devote to your reading and homework
- Practice a typing program if you are a reluctant typist
- Check Powerschool grades regularly.
- Talk to your family about what you are learning or working on in class
- Discover something new about our learning and become an expert on it so you can share with the class



# Mrs. B.'s Classroom Policies and Procedures

*Please read the middle school handbook for more information*

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**Absences:** Only absences due to illness or doctor's appointments are excused. Absences for any other reason including travel or shadowing, etc., are unexcused. No extensions for assignments, homework, or tests will be given for unexcused absences. A one-day grace period will be given per excused absence.

**Assignments and Papers:** Keep all assignments and papers in your binder and bring them to class each day. Please do not throw anything away until we clean out our binders. It is the responsibility of the student to turn in assignments on or before the due date.

Please type all assignments as double-spaced, single-sided, with a 11 font size, 1" margins, and a proper paper heading and title unless otherwise instructed.

*Technology Clause:* If a student can't turn in an assignment on the day it is due because of a technology malfunction (computer crash, etc) then a written and signed note by a parent explaining the malfunction is required. If the assignment can be printed at school, then a note from a parent is not required;

however, the assignment must be printed before class starts in order to avoid late penalties. Printing assignments can be done at the computer lab or library.



**Assignment Headings:** All student-prepared papers are to have a proper heading. Missing the complete heading is subject to a 10% deduction. See below for a heading example:

<p><b>Full Name/Class</b></p> <p><b>Date</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Title of Assignment</u></b></p>
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**Extra Credit:** You may do one extra credit assignment per trimester for a maximum of 10 points due no later than a week before the last day of the trimester. See your teacher for this opportunity.

**Grading Policy:** All assignments in this class reflect the academic grading policy for Woodside School. My grades for class are weighted in the following way: Essays 25%, Tests 25%, Projects 25%, Homework and Class Assignments 25%.

**Homework:** Homework is not to exceed 20 minutes nightly and will consist of reading, completing any unfinished classroom assignments and studying for tests. There will also be the occasional long term book project.

**Late Work:** All late work will be subject to a deduction of at least 10% for each day the assignment is late. Late projects are deducted 20% for each late day. Late work is accepted for 5 days after the due date Missed tests will need to be completed within one week of the original test date.

**Office Hours:** If you need help, advice, or to make up a test I am available each Wednesday at lunchtime by appointment at recess.

**Reading:** In addition to reading core lit novels in class, students are expected to read independently across a variety of genres for daily homework.

**Test Corrections:** Students may complete test corrections on exams for which they scored less than 70%. Students will earn half of the points up to maximum score of 70%. Please see my website for instructions on completing test corrections and reflection writing.

**The Woodside School Grade Scale is as follows:**

A = 93-100; A- = 90-92  
B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, and B- = 80-82  
C+ = 77-79, C = 73-76, and C- = 70-72  
D+ = 67-69, D = 63-66, and D- = 60-62  
F = Below 60



**Citizenship Grade:**

O Outstanding  
S Satisfactory  
N Needs Improvement  
U Unsatisfactory

**Satisfactory (S) Grade in Citizenship**

*To receive a Satisfactory (S) grade in citizenship, you must achieve the following:*

- Have a good attitude towards your fellow classmates. No put-downs!
- Show attentive and respectful behavior at school
- Follow the dress code
- Have homework completed on time
- Be honest
- Be responsible with your school work
- Act in a safe manner
- Respect school property
- Respect other people's space and do not interfere with their learning
- Arrive at school and at class on time and ready to learn
- Be prepared for class (e.g., books, papers, pen, pencil, and binder reminder)

**Outstanding (O) Grade in Citizenship**

*To receive an Outstanding (O) grade in citizenship, you must achieve all of the above plus two of the following:*

- Actively help and support your fellow classmates
- Participate positively in a leadership role
- Exhibit "Life Skills" on a consistent basis
- Perform some sort of extra task that helps your classmates
- Demonstrate frequent and consistent school spirit

