**7th Grade English Syllabus**

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**Classroom Website**: <http://mcqueenglish.weebly.com>

**\*Note: this syllabus is subject to change.\***

**Course Description**

Throughout the year, seventh grade students will continue to develop their reading, writing, thinking and speaking skills as we explore the elements of literature through a variety of short stories, novels, non-fiction pieces, and poetry. As we explore the literature, students will expand their vocabulary with various words met in the literature as well as those assigned from various teacher resources. Students will be taught according to the Common Core/College and Career Ready Standards. Every nine weeks, student progress will be assessed through summative tests that are created from those standards.

Students will be engaged in developing their writing abilities as they work through the writing process to produce various pieces such as personal narratives, descriptive essays, and persuasive essays. Their grasp of various writing conventions and grammatical usage will be reinforced and expanded, and they will be expected to demonstrate this in their writing.

**Grading Policy**

An accumulating point system will be used to evaluate all student work. Each assignment will be given a point value according to the difficulty and length of time to completion. At the end of the grading period, all points will be totaled for a percentage grade. Extra credit opportunities will be made available to the class as a whole when deemed necessary by the teacher. Individual extra credit projects will not be given. The work given during the nine-week grading term will allow your child plenty of opportunity to reach and maintain a satisfactory average.

60%: Summative assessments, which include formal essays, tests, digital projects, and portfolios that we complete at the end of each unit.

40%: Formative assessments (classwork), may be short essays, research, reading responses, group work, creative work, etc. Homework- assignments that reinforce daily standards and content. Usually homework grades will consist of exit tickets.

**Absences/Make-up Work**

If a student is absent, he or she should refer to the class website (see top) under the “Today” tab for a listing of assignments. Make-up work should be completed and turned in within **two weeks** of absence. Students should consult the teacher if they need additional clarification/instructions with make-up work. In addition, students will be responsible for scheduling a time with the teacher to make-up tests/quizzes. When a student turns in late work, he/she should notify me when and where he/she turned the assignment in **in writing.**

**Materials**

Students MUST bring a pencilevery day to class**.** It is essential that students come to class prepared. Students are also required to bring a folder and notebook to class for paper materials. (A notebook used for other classes is fine, I just want to make sure they have paper to write with and a folder to keep up with notes/handouts).

**Laptop/Cell Phone Policy**

Digital literacy is essential for 21st century education. I want all my students to be responsible digital citizens, so I encourage use of personal devices for research and class work. However, if students are not using their devices as directed or irresponsibly, I reserve the right to suspend the privilege of using cell phones in my classroom. If a student is being distracted from my lesson by using non-approved applications (i.e., using Twitter, SnapChat, Instagram, Facebook, games, etc. when I am trying to teach lesson), I will take up his/her phone.

**Student Expectations**

1. Students are expected to follow the rules and guidelines from *Madison County Schools Official Student-Parent Handbook* and the S*MS Handbook.*
2. Students are expected to treat the teacher and their peers with respect. Classroom behavior contracts determining specific expectations will be completed, and students will be rewarded/disciplined according to that contract and according to the handbooks.
3. Students are expected to behave in a manner that will facilitate their own learning and will not interfere with the learning of others.
4. Students are expected to be prepared—having completed the assigned reading every night—and on time to class. Students must bring their computers, notebooks, and pencils to class every day and be in the room seated by the time the tardy bell rings.
5. Students are expected to leave non-school related items at home.
6. Students are expected to pay attention, take notes, and participate in discussion.
7. Students are expected to do their own work. In the event that a student cheats on the assignment/test, the student will be given a grade of zero on the assignment/test and the parents/guardians will be notified of the situation.
8. Students are expected to contribute their own original ideas in their work. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Plagiarized essays will automatically be given a zero and parents/guardians will be notified of the situation.
9. Students are expected to collect and complete make up assignments. All make up work must be completed and turned in within two weeks of the absence or by the last day of the grading period. **It is the student’s responsibility to ask for/complete make up work**.
10. Students are expected to come to class with a positive attitude and an eagerness to learn.

**Consequences for Failure to Meet Expectations**

The following are consequences for inappropriate behavior/failure to meet expectations: Verbal reprimand, detention, phone conference with parents, in-person conference with parents, and/or referral to the office for more serious disciplinary issues. Some behaviors require immediate attention by an administrator. These behaviors include, but are not limited to: the use of obscene language, disregard for the authority of the teacher in charge, harassment of another student or adult, and/or fighting-verbally and physically.

*Students: please come talk to me if you’re going through any personal problems that might affect your academic/behavioral performance. Sometimes it’s hard for teachers to tell the difference between students who are openly defiant and students who are simply having a bad day. In order for me to tailor my instruction to you personally, I need to know you personally!*

**Book List:**

**(Books that are marked with an asterisk indicate we may or may not read that book.)**

*Written in Bone*, by Sally Walker

*A Wrinkle in Time*, by Madeline L'Engel

*Night*, by Elie Wiesel

*The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak\*

*The Taming of the Shrew (No Fear Shakespeare)*, by William Shakespeare

*The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton\*

*The Cay*, by Theodore Taylor\*

**When you and your child have reviewed the above syllabus, please email me from all emails you would like to have contact by August 11th. The email should say your name, your child’s name and period, then state “I have read and understood the syllabus.”**