



**Read. Write. Repeat.  
Literacy Matters!**

Last year, Utah voluntarily adopted new Core Curriculum standards, and the Davis School District began the transition to these new State Standards for English Language Arts. The new standards are quite specific and rigorous, particularly in the area of reading. Students are expected to understand and analyze far more complicated text than they have previously, and lexile (reading level) expectations are greatly increased. For this reason, **now more than ever, it is vital that students practice reading independently on a daily basis. This needs to happen at home as well as at school, ideally with the support and encouragement of families.** At Fairfield, we have always encouraged and required students to read independently, but there are now greater potential consequences for not practicing this skill. Also, the new state standards call for significantly more writing of a more sophisticated nature (formal argumentation and analysis) than the previous curriculum. This means that Language Arts classes will become somewhat more challenging than they have been in the past, and English classes may require more thoughtful study, deeper understanding of material, and higher quality finished products. This school year, the end-of-level criterion-referenced tests mandated by the state will still be based on the old state curriculum, but the expectation of those who made this decision is that since the new standards are far more rigorous, students should be ready for any such test. For more details about the new state standards, visit this website: <http://www.corestandards.org/>.

**Attendance/Citizenship**

***English 9 is a graduation requirement, which cannot be retaken at the high school.***

***\*You won't learn if you aren't here, so make it a priority be here on time every day!***

- √ Students must be in their assigned seats at the tardy bell and must remain in class until the final bell.
- √ Excessive absence or tardiness will result in loss of citizenship credit. (See school attendance policy.)
- √ Failure to follow the classroom policy (described below) will also result in loss of citizenship credit.
- √ A student may make up lost citizenship credit *at my discretion* only if the student meets with me *at least one week before the end of the grading period* and completes the make-up assignments.

***\*Athletes, cheerleaders, and officers should NOT take this class 4<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> period.***

***Supplies***

*These must be brought to class every day!*

- ☺ Writing Paper (with lines)
- ☺ Notebook/Folder
- ☺ Blue or Black Pen
- ☺ Reading Book of Choice
- ☺ Homework (when assigned)
- ☺ Class novel (when assigned)

***The Massive Purple Text***

Assigned textbooks are to remain at home. We have a set at school for classroom use.

***Classroom Policy***

***Personal Responsibility***

**Students will be responsible for their own work, their own behavior, and their own interactions with others. This requires three things:**

- Respect***
- Cooperation***
- Honesty***

*Students are expected to exhibit these qualities.*

**Life's Great Equations**

Freedom = Responsibility

Choice = Consequence

With Freedom comes Responsibility, and with Choice comes Consequence. Those who accept responsibility for their freedom and accept the consequences of their choices will do very well in this class.

**Homework/Reading**

Students will have homework in this class. Some weeks there may not be any; other weeks there may be a lot. The amount of homework depends on what we are working on in class, how much the student finishes during class time, and whether or not the student has procrastinated on a big project. **Independent Reading Practice is an ongoing assignment!** *Students should carry a reading book of choice all the time!* Reading Practice will be a significant score in final grades. Even if no homework has been assigned, students still have a certain amount of reading to complete on their own and should read daily.

## Grading

- √ Grades are calculated as a percentage of possible points.
- √ Points are assigned based on evidence of learning, *not* just completion. (quality of writing, participation, and test scores = evidence of learning)
- √ Independent Reading points are assigned based on evidence of regular reading and comprehension (book reviews on Goodreads, book talks, etc.)
- √ *A student's objective should be LEARNING, not grades – but I am required to assign grades; therefore, I will try to ensure that grades in this class reflect LEARNING.*

### **Grade Scale**

A = 95-100%	C = 74-76%
A- = 91-94%	C- = 70-73%
B+ = 88-90%	D+ = 67-69%
B = 84-87%	D = 64-66%
B- = 80-83%	D- = 60-63%
C+ = 77-79%	F = below 60%

## Resources

### **Book List**

Ninth grade classes at Fairfield may study these works of literature:

*The Pigman* by Paul Zindel  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee  
*Romeo and Juliet* by Shakespeare  
*Mythology* by Edith Hamilton  
*The Odyssey* by Homer  
*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury  
*Animal Farm* by George Orwell  
*Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt  
*Spoon River Anthology* by E.L. Masters  
*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli  
*Nothing but the Truth* by Avi

Assigned and in-class readings are not Independent Reading unless students are required to read significant amounts from these works on their own. Students should always carry a book of choice!

### **Movie List**

These movies (or short clips) may be viewed in class in accordance with district policy:

*Meet the Olympians*  
*Clash of the Titans*  
*Hercules*  
*Shakespeare* by Miramax  
*Shakespeare: District Video Clips*  
*Shakespeare: Biography*  
*To Kill a Mockingbird*  
*Fahrenheit 451*  
*The Odyssey*  
*Romeo and Juliet*  
*Taming of the Shrew*  
*The Cask of Amontillado*  
*Terror of the Soul: Poe Biography*  
Various Short Stories on Video

## Late Work/Extra Credit

Assignments not turned in on the due date are late. Late credit is ½ of the total points for the first week, and it drops after that amount of time, depending on the assignment. If the student was legitimately absent on the due date and the assignment is turned in within two days of the student's return, the lateness will be excused and full credit given, but *it is the student's responsibility to get and complete assignments missed due to absence*. Extra credit may be offered only to students who have completed all the regular class work. If a student's grade is suffering because s/he failed to turn in assignments, s/he must complete the missing work (for late credit) before requesting extra credit work.

**Classroom Website: <http://wolfmanenglishteacher.com>**

Assignments, schedules, links, and projects students will complete for this class are available on the class website. Many assignments will be Internet-based and will be submitted electronically.

**This resource is the best way for students and parents to keep track of what is happening in class.**

**E-mail: [mrthompson@dmail.net](mailto:mrthompson@dmail.net)**

**Have a great year!**

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