

8TH GRADE ENGLISH

South Ogden Junior High School

jenorr@wsd.net • Room 208 • <http://englishwithmsnorr.weebly.com/>

OVERVIEW

In 8th Grade English we will read and write a variety of texts to train ourselves to be good readers, critical thinkers, and effective communicators. I, Ms. Norr, will be prepared every day to help you learn how to become a better reader and writer.



I expect my students to come to class every day willing to work hard and learn.

Remember, you earn your grade by doing your best work and participating in class. If you must miss school, you are

responsible for finding out what you missed. Absent work is filed in the classroom or I keep my website up-to-date with all of the notes and projects that we use in class.

The texts and projects we pursue this year invite will students to consider how we learn through the experiences of others. Along with, how we teach by sharing what we learn from our own.

CURRICULUM

Over the course of this year, these are a few of the texts we will read:

- *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton
- *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
- *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* by Jennifer Armstrong
- Excerpts from *Holt McDougal's Literature Anthology*

Do not read the books ahead of time. If you have already read one or two of them, I will expect you to contribute actively and meaningfully to our class discussions.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

- 80% Assignments & Projects
- 10% Tests & Quizzes
- 10% Positive Participation

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- a reading book (every day in class)
- one 3-ring binder (to keep in class)
- one set of 5-tabbed dividers
- a pencil or pen (blue or black)
- loose-leaf lined paper (no spiral notebook paper)

★ *Have all these materials in class by Wednesday, August 27th.* ★

EXPECTATIONS

To succeed in this class, you should respect your fellow students, the teacher, and the learning environment. This means that you will:

- be respectful of your classmates
- be seated and ready to work when the bell starts ringing
- bring the required materials to class every day
- honestly complete your own work
- raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking
- follow directions quickly

MISS NORR'S DISCIPLINE PLAN

As long as your behavior meets or exceeds my expectations, you will enjoy happy consequences. If your behavior does not meet my expectations, we will go through the following three steps of not-so-happy consequences.

HAPPY CONSEQUENCES	NOT-SO-HAPPY CONSEQUENCES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10% of your grade as a gift (Positive participation is 10% of your term grade.) - A positive learning environment - A happy teacher ☺ 	You Fix It (Warning)	I will give you a warning. It is your opportunity to correct your own mistake.
	Ms. Norr Fixes It	If you do not change your behavior, you will get a participation "ticket". Each ticket will deduct 1% from your participation grade, which is 1% off your final term grade. You will have the opportunity to come after school and make up a total of two tickets per term.
	Parents Fix It	I will ask your parents to help you correct your mistake.
	Administration Fixes It	Mr. Tanner or Mr. Murray, and your parents, will help you correct your mistake.

MS. NORR'S CLASS POLICIES

Reading Logs & Homework: Students will be required to read 150 minutes outside of class every 2 weeks (this equals just 15 minutes of reading for every school day). Every other Wednesday students will receive a new reading log and turn in the previous one. A small writing assignment accompanies each log.

Students complete most assignments and projects in class. Occasionally students will need to continue practicing concepts learned in class at home. These assignments will be due the next day in class.

Oops Cards: Students will receive two "oops cards" per term. These cards may be turned in with a **completed** late assignment to receive full credit. Late assignments will be docked up to 50% without an "oops card." Assignments expire at midterm and then at the end of the term.

Academic Honesty: I expect you to be honest in all your work. You will not earn any credit for work that is not completely your own. I will not allow any degree of cheating (this includes copying other students' homework assignments).

Hall Passes: Students will receive two hall passes per term. These cards may be turned in for permission to use the class hall pass. At the end of each term, extra credit will be awarded for unused hall passes.

Extra Credit: Extra credit **will not** be given on an individual basis. I will award small amounts of extra credit for unused hall passes/oops cards, and excellent work on assignments. But keep in mind, the best way to succeed in this class is to listen and do your work when it is assigned. If you do this, you will not need any extra credit.

Parental Consent Form

(return to Ms. Norr by Wednesday, August 27th)

Dear parents and guardians,

I'm looking forward to a great year with your child. Please read through this class information with your child so you're aware of the expectations, consequences and policies of this class. Your child should be able to answer any questions you may have, because we discussed this information in class.

I have created a website (<http://englishwithmsnorr.weebly.com/>) that will be updated regularly with information about what is going on in class. Your student can access this website when he or she must miss class. Materials and resources needed for projects and assignments will be available on this website.

Every student and parent in the Weber School District has a personal account on the school district's website (<http://wsd.net/>). After logging in, your student's current grade can be viewed. I will not be sending home progress reports because of this. I will contact you if your student's grade drops to a D or F.

Throughout the year I will use video clips to help students understand and visualize literary concepts. All clips will only contain content that is G or PG rated.

It will be very helpful if you include your e-mail address below; it is the easiest way for me to contact you directly with positive feedback and concerns about your child. I will send out periodic email updates so you are aware of what is going on in class. Please feel free to contact me by phone (801-452-4460) after 2:45 or by email (jenorr@wsd.net) with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sign below to verify that you, the student and the student's parent/guardian, have read and understood the disclosure statement.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian email address: _____

Additional/Alternative Parent/Guardian email address: _____

Comments, questions or concerns:
