**Pre-AP Honors English 7th Grade Syllabus**

**W. C. Stripling Middle School, 2014-15**

Lee Ann O’Loughlin, M. Ed.

This document can be found on my website

Course: Pre-AP Honors English 7th Grade Room: 120

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 mrsolou@mail.remind.com

Welcome to Pre-AP Honors English 7th Grade! I hope that you will find our English class challenging, meaningful and excellent preparation for high school success. My goals for our class is are:

1. To give you the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in honors English classes, high school and COLLEGE, and life outside a classroom and,
2. To help you develop a sense of pride in yourself as a responsible, trustworthy, hard-working, kind, and respectful individual.

We will discuss everything from music, poetry, art, novels, movies, and short stories, and we will explore the many reasons that reading and writing reflect so much about ourselves and others. You will learn about literature and language in this class, but you will also learn about yourself and your world. I promise to give you my best every day, and I will expect the same from you.

**Overview:**

See also: Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, English Grade 7 at www.tea.state.tx.us

This class is designed to help students learn to:

* Write for a variety of purposes and audiences (writing assignments will be numerous and varied), with an emphasis on organizing logical arguments with clearly expressed related definitions, theses, and evidence
* Increase vocabulary through word study and use of vocabulary strategies
* Read a variety of texts for a variety of purposes
* Use critical thinking, reading, and listening skills to analyze texts
* Practice writing personal narratives and expository writing in order to improve personal voice in writing
* Use classroom discussions to express ideas and opinions and to make connections

And most importantly:

* To empower students to take responsibility for their own learning
* To teach students about the lifelong benefits of being a good reader and writer and thinker

**Materials Needed for Class:**

* Divider Tabs (5 tabs)
* Assignment Planner/Calendar (provided by school)
* 1 ½ inch binder
* Notebook paper
* Pencil and pens
* Highlighter
* Colored pen of your choice for annotation and editing
* Flash Drive
* Ear Buds
* An Accelerated Reader library book should always be brought to class and taken home daily!

Some of these supplies will be kept in the classroom so that you always have them. You must have all supplies you will need for class on your desk every day when class starts. Being prepared is essential for success in this class. Failure to come to class prepared will result in a reduction of your materials grade (see below).

**The RULES**

1. Be **Respectful**. This is imperative and non-negotiable. No eye rolling, negative comments to the teacher and/or other students, or arguing at all. Remarks and behavior that are considered “bulling” will be referred to the office immediately. Be respectful in words and behavior to each other and all adults. When in doubt, ask yourself if what I am saying or doing will help or hurt.
2. Be **Prepared** and **give** **best efforts in all activities and assignments.**
3. Allow the **teacher to teach** and allow **others to learn**. Cross talk at tables during instruction is prohibited.
4. Be on time for class! When you come into class, you may not leave for something else like water or to visit with someone. **No in and out!**
5. Follow all school rules (dress code, NO GUM, leave your backpacks in your locker.)
6. Refer to Rule 1!

These rules are designed to make our class run smoothly so that everyone in the classroom is comfortable and able to learn. I will be very firm in my enforcement of these rules. Remember – any time you break one of these rules you have **CHOSEN** to do so. **You** are responsible for the consequences of your behavior.

**Consequences may include**:

For minor offenses – Verbal warnings, seat change or temporary removal from classroom, lunch detention, student/teacher conference, communication with parents

For major offenses – Student will be sent to the office immediately with an infraction, parent conference, and possible additional consequences.

**Course Content:**

* Various short stories, poetry, magazine articles
* Grammar
* Writing: Personal Narratives, Expository
* Accelerated Reader Goals each six weeks

**Technology Policy:**

* We will be using I pads, I pods, digital cameras, Smart Phones if you have one, and laptops in our class this year regularly. You will love it so let’s make good choices!
* You will be directed when you may have your cell phone out in class. Taking your cell phone out when not directed to do so will require that I take up your phone and turn it in to the office.
* When using technology, you will have specific directions on what the assignment is that we are completing. Any other use of the technology will require that you forfeit your privilege of using the technology in my class.
* The settings on all devices will remain the same, i.e. do not change settings on anything!
* The use of technology is to enhance your learning and thinking. There is so much we can do with the laptops and I pads to enjoy learning, so work with me to assure we are responsible students.
* You will definitely need ear buds! Bring the ear buds each day!
* ***If you have a technology assignment and do not have access to a computer and internet at home, you may use the computer lab in the morning and after school! Please let me know so I can help you!***
* Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Accelerated Reader Policy:**

* Students will be given an AR goal each six weeks to complete. The goal is based on their current reading level. A new goal will be set each six weeks.
* The completion of the goal is obtained by reading books checked out through the library and taking AR tests at school during class time. The more difficult the book; the more points a book is worth.
* **The AR points are considered a test grade each six weeks**. If a student does not complete their AR goal, then a percentage of the goal that is met will be recorded as a test grade.
* **At progress report time which is 3 weeks into the six week period, the student’s progress on their AR will be reflected in their grade. The progress report is not a final grade and as long as the student is reading their books and taking AR tests after completing their book, their final grade for the six weeks should be an accurate reflection of the student’s work.**
* Library books are checked out through the library at Stripling. It is important that the books are returned on time and all library fines are paid on time. You may also check out books from the public library or use personal books as long as they are AR books. Make sure you check AR Bookfinder on line to determine if your book is an AR book.
* Every student should be reading about 30 minutes every night!!! They will have an AR record to fill out each week and turn in. The AR Log is a homework grade.

**Textbooks:**

* ***Prentice Hall Literature***
* ***Writing Coach***
* **A library book should always be with you at school and at home.**

**Grades:**

Each 6 weeks grades will be figured as follows:

**30% - Daily grade average:** daily activities, group work, in class reading assignments, work in your Reader Writer Notebook, Socratic Seminar discussions and group work, and class discussions based on homework assignments (watching the videos that are on our website.)

**25% - Exam, quizzes**: Includes major literature exams, vocabulary tests, and AR Goal.

**25% - Writing Process Paper/Major Project:** All writing assignments

**10% - Materials/Participation:** The credit you receive for being prepared for class every day, and for participating in discussions and other class activities. Raise your hand and get into our discussions!

**10 %- Homework: Reading Logs are due every Tuesday, each week!!! Additional relevant homework related to our literature will be given regularly including watching videos from my website and completing C-Notes on the videos. Please check my website. This will include assignments during the week-end**

**I do not give extra credit for additional assignments. The one exception is in Accelerated Reader. If you go beyond your reading goal, you will definitely receive extra credit!**

**Late Work Policy**

* **Late work is considered undesirable because it means that you are not prepared for class activities and discussions. However, late is better than not turned in at all!! There are time limits though!**
* Assignments that have been graded and returned to your classmates will not be accepted late for a grade unless you come in before or after school or lunch to finish it in the classroom.
* Assignments that are “check-off” grades and required for our in-class activity (i.e. bringing a specific draft of an essay to class, annotation checks, c-notes on videos) are required to be completed.
* If you turned in an assignment on-time and complete, but were unhappy with your grade, you may come in before or after school to re-do the assignment for full credit, up to 1 week after the assignment was returned to you.
* AR Logs will not be accepted late. You have a week to complete the Log and turn it in on Tuesday. I may give late credit if the following week you turn in 240 minutes of reading with a parent signature.

**Make-Up Work (in compliance with FWISD policy):**

**Students will have one day for every day of EXCUSED absence to make up their work.** If the work is not made up within the allotted time, a zero will be recorded. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule make- up quizzes and tests with the teacher.  **Students with unexcused absences will not be given extra time to make up work after they are absent. Be prepared to take a quiz or exam the day you return to class if you were present the day the test was announced**.

Tutoring:

* If you need additional assistance, please let me know when you can come in, and I will work around your schedule.

**In closing:**

I am here to help you learn and succeed. I will work hard every day to help ensure that you are having a happy, productive classroom experience. I ask for your cooperation in achieving this goal. Ultimately your education is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY,** and I **am committed** to supporting your success in any way that I can. I am looking forward to a fun and educational year!

Please contact me if you need help. If you would like additional assistance with assignments, let me know and we can meet before school. My email is leeann.oloughlin@fwisd.org.

### Pre-AP Honors English 7th Grade Syllabus

**W. C Stripling Middle School**

 **2014-2015**

Please sign and date the form below and get your parent/guardian to do the same so I know both of you have read about what is needed for class. The Syllabus should be kept in your take home binder under the English tab divider. Also, this document can be found on my website to be reviewed at anytime by parents or students. Please have your parent/guardian to fill in the contact information. This sheet must be signed and returned by Friday August 31, 2013. This is for a grade!

Student printed name Student Signature Date

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Parent/guardian printed name Parent/guardian Signature Date

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Parent phone

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Parent e-mail address

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Parent suggestion for the best way to contact

Parents, I may have students contact you during the day if assignments are missing so that you stay informed. Thank you for all your home support. Remember that all homework is posted on my website at [www.mrsoloughlin.weebly.com/](http://www.mrsoloughlin.weebly.com/)!

**Please fill in the following technology survey:**

My student has internet access at home with a printer and a computer Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My student has internet access at home with a computer Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My student will need to use the computer lab to complete assignments

that require a computer and internet service Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_