

**Welcome to Mrs. Hepworth's
7th Grade Language Arts Class!**
2016-2017

Contact Information:

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Course Description for 7th Grade English/Language Arts:

This is one of the most important classes you'll ever take! In this class you will develop and expand your reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking abilities. In short, you will improve your communication skills. You will learn to communicate more effectively with your teachers, your peers, and even your parents.

You will accomplish this task by:

- 1) Reading every day – either in class (we will read short stories, autobiographies, novels, magazine articles, poems, and other texts), or from your individual reading book. Studies show that the best way to improve reading comprehension is by reading often. While we read, you will also be learning strategies to improve your reading comprehension and fluency.
- 2) Writing every day – in the form of journal entries, short responses, narrative stories, argument essays, research assignments, and poetry. Participation in revision exercises will help you develop fluency in writing; it will also help you improve your use of conventions (punctuation, spelling, etc.) “Practice makes perfect” for writing too. You will find that the more you write, the easier it will become.
- 3) Learning new vocabulary – by studying words from the texts we will be reading, as well as word stems. Increasing your word knowledge will greatly improve your reading skills, because as you learn more words, you will begin to understand more challenging texts.
- 4) Presenting to the class – by formally and informally, sharing what you have learned with your peers. This will boost your confidence and make you a more effective communicator.
- 5) Researching topics that you find interesting – through questioning and inquiry. We all know that it is more fun to learn about things that we find interesting. By exploring your own ideas, you will begin to take control of your own learning.

Grades:

Students will receive two grades for my class: one for content knowledge and one for work habits.

- The content knowledge grade communicates the student's progress towards mastering the standards prescribed for 7th grade language arts by the state and the district—specifically:
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Speaking and Listening
- The work habits grade communicates the student's progress towards consistently meeting the expectations of the classroom—specifically:
 - Assignment Completion
 - Preparation
 - Engagement
 - Behavior



Late Work and Makeup Work Policy:

All assignments should be submitted on time. If you turn in an assignment late, your work habits grade will suffer. It's understandable that extenuating circumstances may arise, so this policy will be adapted at the teacher's discretion.

If you are absent (excused) when an assignment is given or classwork is completed, you have one week to submit the assignment. After one week, the assignment is late and your work habits grade will be negatively affected. If you are present when the assignment is given, but absent (excused) when the assignment is due, you must turn it in the **FIRST DAY** you return.



I couldn't do my homework because my computer has a virus and so do all my pencils and pens."

Materials Required Daily:

- **Reading Book** – Students are required to bring a reading book to class EVERYDAY for individual reading. Frequently failing to bring a book to class will result in reduced work habits grade. An e-book accessed on a tablet or e-reader is accepted.
- **English Binder** – Each student should have a binder to put assignments and other class materials in. This binder is to remain in the classroom for daily use. It should NEVER be taken home.
- **Writer's Notebook** – Each student should have a spiral or composition notebook for their writing assignments.
- **Other Materials** – pens, pencils, paper, completed homework, etc.



Website (hepworth.weebly.com):

I have created my website in order to help students and parents stay informed about what is happening in class. I update it daily and I find that students who check it everyday are more likely to succeed in my class. I also suggest that parents check the site at least weekly. The website includes important announcements for both students and parents, upcoming due dates, weekly schedules, access to documents handed out in class, links to other important sites, and much more!

Technology:

I allow tablets (Kindle, Nook, iPad, etc.) in my class for students to use at designated times for class purposes only! Students are also allowed to bring cell phones to my class, but they should only be used when I specifically call for them.

Mrs. Hepworth
7th Grade Language Arts

Please read this document carefully, then sign and return this final sheet to class by August 18th/19th. By signing this, you acknowledge that you agree to abide by the policies laid out in this document. In addition, your signature indicates that you are aware of the materials that will be used instructionally in class this year. Please fill out all parts of this form; information given will be used only for school purposes and forms will be destroyed at the end of the year.

Student:

Student's Name (Printed)

Student's Signature

Date

Is there anything else you want me to know about you? _____

Parent/Guardian:

Parent or Guardians' Names (Printed)

Parent or Guardians' Signatures

Date

Parent or Guardians' Email Addresses

Parent or Guardians' Phone Numbers

Is there anything else you want me to know about your child? _____
