

8TH GRADE ELA

Welcome to 8th grade! Get ready to have so much fun as we build upon seventh grade skills and get ready for high school! Please contact me at any point throughout the year with any concerns regarding your success in my class. I look forward to a successful year!

HOW TO CONTACT ME

Phone: 781-295-2040 ext. 2318 Email: sgearty@town.hull.ma.us

REQUIRED DAILY MATERIALS:

- ☐ Pencils/ Highlighters
- ☐ Independent Reading Book
- ☐ Fully charged iPad
- ☐ Binder with ELA resource handouts
- ☐ Grammar Notebook (will stay in the classroom)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Reading: This year's curriculum will incorporate student-driven learning activities related to both fiction and informational texts. Some of the larger texts we will work with include:

- The Giver by Lois Lowry
- Animal Farm by George Orwell
- So Far from the Bamboo Grove by Yoko Kawashima Watkins
- Monster by Walter Dean Myers

In addition to these texts, students will read independent reading books each week outside of class and be responsible for submitting weekly journal entries focused on these books for a grade.

**Independent reading books may be provided from home, checked out from the public library, purchased through scholastic (flyers will be sent home periodically), or checked out from the classroom library. (Reading on the iPads with kindle/iBook apps is acceptable as well).

WRITING

Students will continue to use the John Collins writing program to further their skills in the writing process. Students will consider different audiences and purposes when experimenting with a variety of writing styles including narrative, expository, and argumentative compositions.

BINDER/NOTABILITY TABS

You are ultimately responsible for taking notes and keeping track of materials for this course, so whether this is done electronically or in a binder is up to you. The tabs required to help you be best organized are as follows:

- Current ELA Unit
 - o Classwork
 - Vocabulary
 - o Grammar
 - o Essays/Major Projects
- Independent Reading Organizers
- Independent Research Essays

CLASSROOM NORMS

Rules

- 1. Be on time, on task, and prepared to learn EVERY DAY
- 2. Respect the teacher, the classroom, other students, and yourself
- 3. Be responsible for your own learning
- 4. Take care of the classroom resources as well as your own learning materials
- 5. Keep all personal electronics PUT AWAY unless otherwise instructed

GRADING:

Students' averages will be posted on Aspen and updated weekly. More in depth assignment details, due dates, and grades will be posted on Schoology. This classroom uses weighted categories for grading.

Assignments are weighted as followed:

- Tests, Projects, & Formal Writing Assignments: 30%
- Quizzes/ Independent Reading Journals: 25%
- · Classwork and Participation: 25%
- · **Homework**: 10%

Students are expected to hand in work on time. **Any late work will receive half credit.** If a student is absent for class, he/she must turn in all classwork/homework within one week.

Should anyone need help after school, I can be available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday until 3:45. Please let me know at least one day ahead of time if you are planning on staying after.

HOMEWORK:

All homework assigned will be posted on the classroom whiteboard and Schoology. Students are responsible for writing down homework in their agendas (paper or electronic).

Homework Zone is available in the building on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday until 3:45.

ELA - CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AGREEMENT

Starting Class: I will walk quietly to my seat and begin the "Warm Up."

Homework: I will turn in my homework via schoology by 7:55 AM. If I have a paper copy, I will place it in the "Turn In Bin" when I walk into class.

Classwork: I will submit classwork online when it is completed. I understand that if I need more time to finish I have until the next day to turn it in. I also understand that if I am absent, I must complete all classwork and class readings within 1 week to earn full credit.

Coming to class prepared: I will have my charged iPad, pencils, binder, and independent reading book.

Asking a question: I will raise my hand until I am called on or until Miss Gearty comes over to me. I will not shout, interrupt others, or leave my desk.

Bathroom/Nurse: I may use a bathroom pass four times during the term. I will raise my hand to ask Miss Gearty if I can go, and I will sign out/in when I go.

Borrowing Materials: All supplies (pencils, etc) borrowed from Miss Gearty will be returned by the end of class. I will ask before taking materials, and I won't take items off Miss Gearty's desk. Independent reading books borrowed from the library will be checked in/out and replaced if lost.

Entering and leaving during class: I will move quietly without disrupting or distracting others.

Finishing Early I will review all work I have completed prior to turning in. Once reviewed, I will begin an "Early Finisher" activity found on Schoology or in the "Early Finisher" option folders in my classroom.

Grading: I understand the following grading breakdown. If a question arises regarding my grading during the course of the year, I know I can ask Miss Gearty for help.

- ★ Tests, Projects, & Formal Writing Assignments: 30%
- ★ Quizzes / Independent Reading Journals: 25%
- ★ Classwork and Participation: 25%
- ★ Homework: 10%

Being On Task: I will be focused on the task at hand every day. Any talk or discussions will be related to the task.

Technology: I will leave all personal electronics in my locker or at home (phones, laptops, etc.). I understand that the only device allowed in the classroom is an iPad, which is used as directed.

Plagiarism: I will avoid plagiarism by turning in original work. I understand that any form of plagiarism (copying a friend's work, using online work, etc.) will result in an **automatic zero** and disciplinary consequences.

Student signature:	Date:
Parent signature:	Date: