

WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

7th Grade ELA Teachers Mrs. Antonas or Mrs. Solano	Contact: chantel.kluemper@knoxschools.org or jacqueline.solano@knoxschools.org
Class: 7th Grade English Language Arts	Room #40 (Mrs. Antonas) #39 (Mrs. Solano)

Dear Parents and Students,

I am so excited for this school year! This year in English Language Arts, students will be engaging in a variety of writing modes, participating in in-depth inquiry and analysis of complex texts, and experiencing rigorous classroom discussions led by both the teacher and their peers. It's important for students to be given numerous opportunities to engage with and discuss enriching texts while connecting them to relevant topics and themes. My goal is for each student to be proactive in their learning experience and find ways to make what we learn in class applicable to their daily lives. This school year I hope to equip students not only will literacy skills but with skills of empathy, curiosity, and mindfulness when discussing real-life issues and topics.

Course Expectations:

1. Always be respectful in speech, action, thoughts, etc.
2. Come to class prepared every day.
3. Put your very best effort in everything that you do.

Standards

This year, English Language Arts will follow the Tennessee State Standards. This year, English Language Arts will follow the Tennessee State Standards. They cover the following categories: reading fiction, reading informational text, writing, language and speaking and listening. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.tn.gov/education/instruction/academic-standards.html>

Supplies List: These will all be left in the ELA classroom!

For the spiral notebook and folder, please purchase color that corresponds with your student's class period. (1st: Green, 2nd: Red, 5th: Purple, 6th: Blue)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Subject Spiral Notebook (Has 5 sections with built-in tabs, refer to class period for color listed above) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Pocket 3 Prong Folder (refer to class period for color listed above)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 pack red pens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 packs pencils
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 pack college ruled paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 box Kleenex
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hand sanitizer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 packs sticky notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 pack of yellow highlighters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry Erase Board markers (donation)

Texts:

Prentice Hall Literature: Common Core Edition

The Outsiders, The Giver, Refugee, and The Hungers Games

Students will also be reading informational texts in addition to literary texts during our novel units. These may include: poems, news articles, music lyrics, drama, speeches, essays, etc. Our news articles may be pulled from, but not limited to: *Time Magazine, The New York Times, Knoxville News Sentinel, newsela.com*, etc.

**If you do not approve of a specific resource listed above, please inform me as soon as possible and an alternative assignment and/or materials will be provided. In your request, please include your name, the student's name, the specific activity/materials in which you do not want your student to participate or to which you do not want them exposed, and the nature of your objection.

Grading:

1st Semester: 45% Formative Assignments (classwork, homework, writing, etc.)
55% Summative Assignments (tests, quizzes, projects)

2nd Semester: 40% Formative Assignments (classwork, homework, writing, etc.)
45% Summative Assignments (tests, quizzes, projects)
15% End of Year Assessment

Knox County Grading Scale: A: 93-100 B: 85-92 C: 75-84 D:70-74 F: 69 and below

Homework Policy:

Students will not have assigned homework. With the exception of some outside of class reading, students will only have work to bring home if they do not complete the work assigned in class.

Late Work Policy:

- Late work definition: Any work turned in **after** the due date and time.

- Late work will receive a deduction of **10%** for each day the assignment is late before being graded for accuracy.

Make Up Policy:

- It is the **student's** responsibility to ask for make-up work either prior to being absent or on the first day they return.
- Students have **one** day for each day missed to turn in make up work. For extended absences, come to me and we will work out a plan for turning in the make up work.

Canvas Learning Management System

Canvas will be a central location to stay updated on student assignments and progress.

Extra Credit Policy

Extra credit **will not be given**. Students are expected to do their best on every assignment as it is assigned. If work is completed on time, extra credit will not be necessary.

Helpful Websites

1. Canvas <https://knoxschools.instructure.org>
2. Aspen-grades and missing work
<https://aspen.knoxschools.org>
3. Knox County Schools Homepage
<http://www.knoxschools.org>
4. Cedar Bluff Middle School Homepage
<https://www.knoxschools.org/cedarbluffms>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accepting a grade letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents should be involved in making the decision. According to *Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition*: "Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased. It includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Copying verbatim all or part of another's written work;
2. Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;
3. Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source;
4. Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator."

Board Policy I-431 on Religion in the Curriculum for all Math, Science, ELA and Social Studies classes

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion—and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective and respectful manner in accordance with the following:

- 1. Music, art, literature, or drama with a religious theme or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
- 2. The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature and history shall be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies shall never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs; and
- 3. Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to express religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech and debate.

Name: _____

Class Period: _____

Please sign below to indicate that you have read the PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS for Mrs. Solano's or Mrs. Antonas' ELA class. I will keep this page of your student's syllabus as an acknowledgement that it has been read by both student and parent/guardian.

Thank you.

- I have read and been explained the course syllabus during class, and any questions I had were answered.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

- I have read and reviewed my student's course syllabus for ELA.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Print Name: _____