

Materials Needed

- ★ One three ring binder
- ★ One two pocket folder for in class
- ★ Pens, pencils, markers, colored pencils-these will be shared with other classes, so no need to buy a set for every class.
- ★ 5 Dividers/tabs to be used inside of student binder
- ★ Assignment notebook to be used for every class as well as hall pass
- ★ Loose leaf paper
- ★ 2 highlighters
- ★ 1 box of Kleenex

Homework

Homework is practice. We learn from our mistakes and the corrections we make to our errors. This is why completing and reviewing homework is extremely important. Each student starts every quarter with 100% for their homework grade. Each time an assignment is missed, incomplete, or turned in late, a three point deduction will be taken from the homework grade. It is important to note that if you leave any empty blanks on homework, the assignment will be considered incomplete. Equally important, additional or different directions may be given on worksheet/textbook assignments; it is essential to write down the changed directions for your reference at home. All assignments are expected to be completed; even if a student forgets or doesn't complete an assignment by the due date, they will be expected to turn it in to show their understanding of the material. Note: a deduction from the homework grade still occurs, but students will get the percentage grade. **ABSENCES: It is your job as the student to find out what assignments were given during your absence.**

Practice Exercises

English Exercises

English exercises: Periodically, English work (in-class or homework) will be taken for a grade. This is in order to assess your understanding of the English concepts taught in class as well as to allow you to see where you may need to focus for upcoming quizzes/tests. **NOTE: All homework assignments are gone over to check for student understanding.**

Reading Exercises

Reading exercises check student comprehension of material as well as allow students to practice strategies we have covered in class. (This is where those handy-dandy highlighters come into play!!) These exercises will assess student understanding of different genres in reading.

Quizzes and Tests

Quarterly Assessments

Quarterly assessments are given during quarters 1, 2, and 4. These assessments will cover your understanding of variety of reading skills including recognizing main idea, sequencing, identifying facts/detail, drawing conclusions and inference, understanding words in context, applying figurative language (this is where word wall words come into play), locating cause and effect relationships, determining differences in fact and opinion, summarizing, and predicting. Students are expected to achieve a 75% or better on quarterly assessments.

English Quizzes/Tests

- ✎ Students will be assessed after concepts are taught in class. Ideas taught in class will be expected to be included in student writing. Assessments may be on the concepts themselves or through student writing.
- ✎ Students will have information provided in their binder which will help them prepare for any tests given in class including English tests. Study guides can take the form of reviewed homework/English exercises as well as study guides given in class.

Word Wall Words and Vocabulary Study (this also includes prefixes, suffixes, and affixes taught in class)

Students will be responsible for defining and applying word wall words. You will be quizzed on these words periodically as well as on quarterly assessments.

IRT-Independent Reading Time

Independent reading time (IRT) is when students are asked to bring in reading material from home/library to read. Students only become better readers when they practice at their reading level. This being said, students will read 2 to 3 times per week in their IRT material. Guidelines for IRT books will be passed out; however, **IRT is meant to read NEW material, not a book you have read before.** Students will conference with the teacher in order to assess understanding of the material as well as assess where further teacher assistance may be needed.

Projects

Writing

Graded assignments are given one to two times per grading period. These can take the form of creative, essay, or extended response writing assignments. These will be discussed as they are assigned. Oral and written directions will be given. We will be covering narrative writing this year.

Novel Projects

These projects will be discussed as they come up. They will be assigned in conjunction with novels/themes discussed in class. Oral and written directions will be given.

Practice Writing





Extended Responses

After each quarterly assessment, students are required to respond to an extended response in order to prepare them for those found on the ISAT tests. Students will also complete practice extended responses in class (both individually and as a class). Extended responses are graded based on accuracy of information presented from the reading material, and students' ability to draw conclusions and extend their understanding further.

Journals

Journals will be a time for students to free-write about their ideas on a specific topic given in class. Written guidelines will be passed out for students to use as a reference. Students will be asked to implement the English concepts taught in class.

Grading Scale

-  Homework: 15% of total grade
-  Practice Exercises: 20% of total grade
-  Projects (this includes writing and novel projects): 25% of total grade
-  Tests and Quizzes: 40% of total grade

Extended response scores will be added to the average of the above four grades. Students can receive one to four points on their final reading grade.

BINDERS:

Students are expected to bring their Language Arts binders **EVERY DAY** to class. Binders are a resource for students at home. They will keep all notes, completed homework, and work in progress inside of their binders. We will be using five tabs to help students stay organized. They will be: **writing, reading, IRT, English, and strategies.** Any graded materials like tests should be brought home to show parents