

Back to School Night
Reading-Writing 7
Ms. Henry

Welcome to Reading-Writing 7!

This course is designed to provide seventh grade students with a variety of reading experiences and strategies. The hope is that they will be inspired to become life-long readers. While some works will be read by the entire class to allow for whole group discussion, most of the works any individual student reads will be based on his or her choice. The course will feature discussion groups and reading journals and will make extensive use of the junior high library.

Activities in Reading-Writing 7 include the following:

1. **Reading Log/Journal** — This provides me with evidence of independent reading. Most of this is done in the library during sustained silent reading.
2. **Favorite Excerpts Wall** — The class will create a wall of excerpts that are essential to the books they are reading.
3. **Great Book Introduction** — Each student will present a brief, enticing introduction to a book the student really loved. (Quarter 2)
4. **Book Review** — Dates will be announced in the second quarter. This year, we are creating folders of our favorite reviews (to be kept in the Junior High Library) so that all junior high students can peruse their peers' favorites. This will assist students with book selection.
5. **Book Clubs**— The students' first club book is Gary Paulsen's *Nightjohn*. We will do one more whole class book club, after which the students will be able to choose their own books to read and discuss. In the second quarter, students will also choose and complete a project from a list of possible activities I will provide.
6. **Creative Writing** — This will include poetry writing, creating a character, and writing creative non-fiction.
7. **Quotation Responses** — Twice a week, students will copy down a quotation from the board and respond to it in their notebooks. This activity will allow students to practice organizing their thoughts when writing and will also assist in honing their skills of interpretation.
8. **Strategies for Reading Informational Materials**—We will devote some class time to reviewing strategies to use when reading some important non-fiction and informational materials like textbooks, diagrams, bus schedules, etc.

All of these activities will be assessed for completeness and quality. Grades for the quarter are based on the reading journal, completion of handouts associated with the book clubs, students' creative writing, and the special projects mentioned above. Up to 20% of the grade will be based on participation in class activities, including book club discussions. Unexcused lateness and absences will negatively affect this grade.

Please call me at (631) 367-6832 (English office) if you have any questions about the curriculum or your child's work. I can also be contacted via e-mail: ahenry@csh.k12.ny.us.