

**Reading and Writing AIS**  
**Mrs. Mastracchio**  
**Period 5**

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Welcome to the Reading and Writing Workshop. In this class, we focus on improving reading comprehension and writing skills especially in preparation for the ELA (English Language Arts) exam, which you will be taking this Spring.

We will divide our time between the classroom and the library. On classroom days, you will have formal reading and writing lessons. In addition to these lessons, we will **Drop Everything And Read** on library days. Of course, you will continue to choose your own books for DEAR Days (AKA independent silent reading). Additionally, you will learn some practical research strategies and note taking strategies.

### **Course Expectations**

**INDEPENDENT READING:** People increase their reading skills by reading often. Therefore, the class will **Drop Everything And Read** two – three periods per week. At home, you should read your independent reading book as often as possible. **Always have a good book in your possession.** If you don't like a book, abandon it and choose another. If you are close to the end of your book, be sure to have another book on deck!

**READING RESPONSES:** ***You will write a response to your independent reading each DEAR Day.*** In general an entry should be a full page (approximately 10 – 15 sentences). Your responses provide me with evidence of the work you are doing during independent reading, so show off. Reading responses should reflect the thinking that is taking place in your head while reading. They should include your insights, reactions, and interpretations to your reading. **Always include specific details from your novel. Responses will be graded.**

**READING COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES:** We will also work on reading comprehension strategies and ELA practice tests using the **Eccentrics** workbook.

**WRITING:** Class assignments will include a variety of writing tasks from writing a cohesive paragraph to writing a well-organized essay. Writing tasks are designed to sharpen your writing skills. **Areas of concentration include conveying clear meaning, developing and organizing ideas, using specific and sophisticated language, and using proper conventions.**

**AUTHOR STUDY RESEARCH PAPER:** During the semester you will learn how to research utilizing the school's databases and research techniques learned in class. **You will learn to use parenthetical citations in your writing.**

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** A positive attitude is the key to success. Your enthusiasm for reading and writing is contagious and will help build a positive reading community. Since reading well and writing well require thinking critically and deeply, you will want to **put your best effort forward everyday.**

*I look forward to teaching you and guiding your development in reading and writing.*

**\*\*Please obtain the following materials by Monday.**

**Materials:**

- Marble style notebook (at least 100 pages).
- A sturdy folder (preferably plastic) for handouts.
- 2 highlighters.
- 2 pens.
- USB Drive (recommended)

**ASSIGNMENTS**

- Satisfactory completion of independent reading books and the assignments associated with them.
- Satisfactory completion of your ELA PREP assignments in the *Eccentrics* workbook.
- Satisfactory completion of your Reading Responses.
- Satisfactory completion of your Class work assignments.
- Satisfactory completion of the Author Study Research Paper.
- Regular Class Participation.
- Satisfactory completion of your homework assignments.

**GRADING**

Grades in reading class are based on effort, participation, and skill development in reading comprehension, and writing. Class-work and practice tests are graded, but students often have the opportunity to rewrite and make test corrections.