

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Ms. Clarke

RM 407

Email: jclarke@newcaneyisd.org

Conference: 1st period Time:

281-577-4258

Syllabus

Class

Objective:

To be successful in life, students must be adequately prepared and able to communicate effectively with others in the English language. The curriculum for English Language Arts is designed to continue student's exposure to a variety of literary texts with adequate understanding and to refine grammar skills and improve writing through the writing process. We will also prepare the students to pass the state mandated test.

Textbook: Literature Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes; Prentice Hall

Workbook: Reading Essentials and Study Guide, TAKS Practice Editions, Student Workbook.

Online Access: Students are encouraged to use online textbook and resources for test preparation and assignment completion.

Supplies: In order for you to be successful you need to be **PREPARED** every day. **You are required to bring the following items daily:**

1-Planner (Provided by KCMS) – if misplaced, replacements need to be purchased

1-ELAR Folder (with brads and pockets)

1-Red Folder for TAKS (with brads and pockets – to be left in classroom)

1-Notebook paper (to be kept for refill of folder brads)

1-Package of Map Pencils (may leave in assigned area within classroom)

1-Three Subject Spiral Notebooks (with pockets – one for each semester)

1- Red Pen (for corrections only)

Writing Utensil – Pencil/Pen (blue or black only)

2 Packages Index Cards

Planner: You are *required* to bring your planner to class every day. It will be used to record daily Assignments, homework, project due dates, test dates, instructor notes to parents, and other important information. It should be used to help you effectively plan for success in this class.

It should be reviewed daily by you as a student and weekly by your parent or guardian. Planner checks will count as a daily grade.

Class work: Everyone is expected to put forth their best effort. All assignments must be legible and require the correct heading. If the assignment is not readable it will be returned without a grade for you to re-complete. Also, if students earn below 75% on an assignment you will have the option of taking **one day** to make *full* corrections and resubmit it for a maximum of 80 points.

Homework: Students will be responsible for completing all homework assignments. Homework Enhances and supports what we are learning in class. Homework will be given at least twice a week. **During the first semester, late homework assignments will earn a maximum of 50 points. No late homework will be accepted during the second semester.** Students will be required to sign a missing homework/assignment page in acknowledgement of their choice of a 0.

Projects: Students will be required to complete up to two (2) major projects this year. Topics will be discussed and explored in class each semester. Projects will count as a TEST grade (see Grades below). Again, students will be required to sign a missing project/assignment page in acknowledgement of their choice of a 0. Project due dates are subject to change, but are tentatively set as follows:

- ❖ **1st Semester Project due just before Christmas Break**
- ❖ **2nd Semester Project 2 due just after Spring Break**
- ❖ **Pre-AP students may have additional readings or projects as assigned.**

Tests: Students will be responsible for studying for quizzes (daily grade) and Unit Tests. In addition to these assessments, students will take two Bench Marks and the 7th Grade ELAR TAKS test this year. Students are encouraged to form study groups or find a study buddy.

Extra Credit: Students will receive many opportunities and options for Extra Credit. Hard work is rewarded. – **Extra credit will not take the place of a major project or test grade.** However, it is possible to add points to any assignment.

Tutorials: Tutoring will be available for students who request or need it. Tutoring will be available every Wednesday before and after school.

Absences: Absent students will be responsible for picking up and completing their missed assignments. He/she has one (1) day for each day absent to turn in the work for full credit.

* All previously planned assignments (projects, tests) given prior to the students absence will be due on the original due date. Due dates will not be postponed. For example, if the student has been aware of a Friday due date (noted in planner, on board, etc.) for Project X or Test Y, and he/she was absent a day that week (M, T, W, TH), the due date will not be extended to Monday.

Grade

Computation:

Daily grades = 40% of overall grade (at least 10 grades per six weeks)

Homework = 10% of overall grade (at least 6 grades per six weeks)

Tests/Projects = 50% of overall grade (at least 2 grades per six weeks)

Grading Scale:

A 90 – 100 Excellent progress

B 80 – 89 Good progress

C 75 – 79 Satisfactory progress / Average progress

D 70 – 74 Minimal Progress

F 69 – 0 Unsatisfactory progress

I Incomplete

Students will receive a copy of Class Rules and Procedures in class

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Course Outline:

Reading Strategies

Reading Process

Spelling

Short Stories & Literary Terms

Writing Process

Letter Writing

Vocabulary development

Effective sentence development

Journal writing

Research Skills

Parts of Speech

6 Writing Traits

Effective usage development

Expository/informative writing

Descriptive writing

Narrative writing

Persuasive writing

Non-fiction literature

Poetry and Elements of Poetry

Various Novels

Mythology

Mechanics

Effective Communication Skills (i.e. Listening, Speaking,
Viewing)

Jacqueline K. Clarke
7th&8th Grade
English Language Arts/Reading

Dear Parent:

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! It is with great anticipation and excitement that we begin our year at Keefer Crossing with your child. I have an exciting year planned for your (our) seventh/eighth grader. Our class will cover Grammar, Writing and Readings of different genres. While it is a large amount of material to cover, I believe we will be able to work at a brisk enough pace to cover all the material before the very important TAKS test in the spring. We may have various projects due throughout the year and I will inform your child well in advance of their due dates.

Supplies:

2- Three (3) Subject Spiral Notebooks (one for each semester) 1- Pack of map pencils
1- Small pack of Pens/Pencils (blue or black only) 2- Red pens (for corrections only)
1- Red Folder (w/ brads & pockets) 1- Folder any color (brads & pockets)
1-Box of Tissue 1- Planner (provided by KCMS)
2 Packages Index Cards

Please note the following:

1. Class materials (notes, vocabulary, journal) will be recorded and kept in the **3 Subject Spiral**.
2. Supplemental materials (syllabus, procedures, handouts, worksheets, and extra paper) will be kept in the pockets or brads of the **ELAR folder (any color)**.
3. TAKS Review materials will be kept in the **RED TAKS folder**.
4. Benchmarks will be given periodically to assess progress towards TAKS goals.
5. Special assignments and Extra Credit will be assigned throughout the year.
6. Students will be required to participate in classroom discussions and activities.
7. Students will be expected to follow class and school rules.
8. Late work will not be accepted (extenuating circumstances may be considered).
9. We will use **PLANNERS** again this year for assignments. I will check planners on a regular basis and send notes home to parents through the planner.
10. Open communication lines will be maintained through phone, email, and regular mail.

The computation of grades is as follows:

Daily Grades = 40% Homework = 10% Tests and Projects = 50%

Do not hesitate to call or email me at anytime. I am available from 7:20-8:12 for conferences and will be available after school to be of assistance to students or parents. My email is jclarke@newcaneyisd.org and is listed on the school web site at www.newcaneyisd.org . Please encourage your child to meet with me if they are having problems in English/reading. If you or your child cannot meet during the times provided, please let me know and we will make other arrangements. If you have any questions, please contact me. I look forward to working with you and your child to achieve their academic goals this year.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Clarke