

Reading

Mrs. Amanda Williams ~ Room A205

Course Description: Students in this course need additional assistance developing their reading comprehension skills. Students will develop vocabulary skills and fluency in both fiction and non-fiction texts. Students will also complete an extensive amount of independent reading at their own recreational reading level.

Iowa Core Standards:

Standard 1: Reading Strand – Literature

Students will effectively comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and create using a diverse range of appropriately complex print materials.

Standard 2: Reading Strand – Informational Text

Students will effectively comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and create using a diverse range of appropriately complex print materials.

Standard 4: Language

Students will apply knowledge of the English language and its conventions when reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Assessments:

- Class discussion
- Weekly articles/stories
- Formal and informal writing assignments
- Vocabulary quizzes
- Book talks
- Fluency quizzes

Content:

- Short stories, news articles, novels (fiction and non-fiction), written media, podcasts

Instructional Strategies:

- Small and large group discussion
- Language activities
- Peer sharing
- Writing practice
- Small group collaboration

Resources: We will use the novel Marley and Me to introduce the Reading Class process. Other resources used are short pieces which can include, but are not limited to, newspaper and magazine articles, short stories, and other related works. Students will also select their own independent reading books.

Expectations

Materials: You will be responsible for bringing the following supplies to class each day: notebook (paper), pen and/or pencil, book, agenda, and completed homework.

Late Work: Homework is due at the BEGINNING of each period. After class has started, it will be considered late. Late homework will result in a point reduction

Make up Work: If you are absent, it is your responsibility to request and make up all the work you missed. This may require you to come in before school, after school, or during a free period. You will have two days to complete make up work.

- If you know in advance you will be absent, please inform the teacher.
- Pick up any missing work at the beginning or the end of class the next day, not in the middle of class while an activity or assignment is taking place.

Tests and Quizzes: Tests will be taken on the pre-announced day. If you are absent the day before a test, expect to take the test the day after you receive the review information. If you are absent the day of a test, expect to take the test the day you return. Vocabulary quizzes will be every Friday.

Tardy Policy: Please be in your desk before the bell rings. See your agenda for the school tardy policy.

Cell Phones: Cellphones should not be used or SEEN in class unless using for a class activity purpose. If your cell phone is seen being used, it will be taken away for the class period. You will have one warning, otherwise you will have to pick it up from the AP Office.

- If a cell phone is out during a test, you will automatically receive a zero on the test.

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating is forbidden. This includes plagiarism, blatant copying, and “borrowing” homework. Student(s) involved will be given a zero on the assignment, a parent contact will be made, and other disciplinary action may be taken.

Group Work: Partner work and group discussion is essential in Reading class. It is expected that you will work with the partner assigned and/or chosen. Disrespect will not be tolerated.

Grading:

- You are graded on various elements of reading: independent reading, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, and other assignments that correlate with the other categories.
Breakdown:
Independent reading = 40%
Comprehension = 30%
Vocabulary = 15%
Fluency = 10%
Other = 5%
- The Independent Reading grade is based on book points. Each book is worth a certain amount of points, but a student must do a successful book talk in order to obtain those points. Some book points are up to the teacher’s discretion based on vocabulary, etc. Books read in English class will also count towards book points for Reading class.

Book Points (based on pages)

Easy: 0 - 125 = 1
Medium: 126 - 225 = 2
Difficult: 226 – 325 = 3
Lengthy: 326 + = 4

Book Point Grading Scale (SEMESTER)

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
27+	26	25-24	23-22	21	20-19	18-17	16	15-14	13-12	11	10-0

- You must have a minimum of 11 book points each semester in order to pass the class.
- Along with independent reading, we will have a vocabulary quiz every week (Fridays). This is a quiz over the weekly vocabulary words and three words that you find in your independent reading book.
- We have fluency quizzes every other week. This will be out of 10 points each week.
- Each week there will be a comprehension activity. This is also graded accordingly.
- Other activities will occur during the week. These also are counted towards your grade.
- Book talks will not be conducted “last minute” at the end of the semester. Please plan accordingly.

Communication Plan:

- Email: amwilliams@dbqschools.org (This is slightly different than other teacher formats).
- Phone: DSHS Extension: #5558
- Extra Help: If you need extra help with anything in this class, please talk to me to make an appointment before or after school. You are always encouraged to ask questions and to get help when you need it. This includes doing book talks.