

“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.”

- Margaret Fuller

English Language Arts - Grade 7

Zahra Seyam

Email: zseyam87@gmail.com (tentative)

(734) 846-5865 (personal cell; Available)

Room 411

General information on the class/curriculum can be accessed:

<http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=1489033>

Course Information:

The 21st century student requires stimulation from various methods of learning. This course will focus on the imperative skills of reading and writing with a workshop/collaborative environment. Students will be exploring a variety of texts and genres with the hopes that they will become sophisticated and critical readers and writers. Writing workshops will also allow opportunities to apply their literary concepts and develop grammatical structures.

With a focus on inquiry based thinking, the goal is that students can develop instrumental reading and writing skills through implementing choice, reflection, collaboration, and ownership of their work. Through a strong emphasis on independent choice reading, they can develop proper schema (background knowledge), vocabulary, and of course a love of reading and writing.

We will focus on the following genres:

Reading:	Writing
Memoir	Persuasive Essay
Myth and legend	Memoir
Drama	Myth
Poetry	Mystery
Mystery	Research

General Expectations

- **Respect is number one.** Respecting others, the teachers and staff, and oneself (this means working hard and be ready to participate, be creative, and help others).
- Being Prepared means coming on time, prepared with materials, positive attitude, and ready to work.
- Always come to class with all your materials: Planner, pen and pencil, assignments, binder, and a book for Friday reading.
- If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to fine me and ask what was missed. They will have 2 days for each day absent to make up work.
- Only healthy snacks (water and fruits/veggies) will be allowed for independent reading day. Any littering will forfeit this privilege for the class.

Required Materials

- A single spiral notebook or composition notebook. If unable to obtain, I will be happy to provide.
- A three-ring binder for keeping ALL OF THE PAPERS AND MATERIALS FOR THE YEAR, students will be continuously referring back to them all year.

Homework

Students are expected to be constantly reading a novel for a minimum of 20 minutes each night at home, and a combined hour on weekends. Signed reading calendars will be collected at the end of each month (Please do not sign if not completed).

In addition, students will be required to write an essay on a topic/question every other week for the Word Generation vocabulary packets. There will also be a Literary Log based on their independent reading that needs to be completed each week. Students will have time in class to complete any other writing assignments related to genre studies, but may have to finish some at home. In general, the homework for Language Arts should be rough 15-20 minutes plus their nightly reading.

Grading

Grading will compiled on the basis of the points below:

- Reading Calendars-20 points
- Weekly Writing- 10-15 points/page assigned (rough drafts)
- Final Drafts (with reflections)-100 points
- Literary Logs-30 points
- Word Generation (SERP) Essays- 15 points
- Grammar and *Write Source Materials*- 15-20 points (average)

*In accordance with the student contracts, late assignments are knocked down by one grade level for each day turned in late. Students are entitled to one **"Absolve Me"** slip for full credit on one late homework assignment for each quarter. Must be turned in within a week of the due date.

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Family Survey

Please return to Ms. Seyam for your student's credit

1-Best method of contacting you (phone, email) Please provide:_____

2- Is there anything else you can tell me about your child that you think would help me support his/her learning?_____

*Due to my late arrival to Forsythe, I am looking for further ways to remain accessible until I have fully transitioned (with school communications).

In lieu of my impending aaps school email and full time schedule/class phone number, I have also incorporated the Remind app (free) to extend to students and their families. The Remind app is a safe, a free app where I can send reminders, assignments/amendments, and motivational messages to students and parents.

Interactions are safe because phone numbers are always kept private, and messages are sent with no open replies. If interested in receiving, please feel free to provide email or smartphone number._____

“Reading one book is like eating one potato chip.”

— ***Diane Duane***”

English Language Arts - Grade 7 Student Contract

Ms. Seyam

Email: zseyam87@gmail.com (tentative)

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Goodreads: <https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/3880182-zahra>

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- **Healthy, non-messy snacks (water, fruits, veggies) are allowed. Student is responsible for cleaning after. Any littering will forfeit snacking.**

Required Materials

- A single spiral notebook or composition notebook. If unable to obtain, I will be happy to provide.

- A three-ring binder for keeping ALL OF THE PAPERS AND MATERIALS FOR THE YEAR, students will be continuously referring back to them all year.
- The Forsythe planner, use this for requesting passes, recording due dates, and bell schedule.

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One important note, I have an open-door policy where I encourage you to speak and share any concerns or questions. My goal is to push you to succeed and achieve this year, while still enjoying the class. Feel free to email or set a meeting with me (after school, your advisory, or lunch) to discuss any concerns. I will do my best to conference with you at least twice before the quarter will end. I am stoked to get to know you!

Sincerely,

Zahra Seyam ^_^

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I have carefully read the student contract and the procedures and will agree to abide by them to the best of my ability.

date:_____ **signature:**_____

One Absolve Me
★ Pass

Name:
hr:
Date:
Assignment:
Signature:

This Absolve Me slip allows students one free pass per quarter to turn in an assignment late while avoiding a late points off.