

Haverford Middle School
Ms. Williams 2004-2005
8th Grade English Course Expectations
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Introduction:

Welcome to a class that will truly challenge and excite you! You will feel rewarded during the school year knowing that English can be fun and you can/will succeed! My overall goal is to expose you to the topics of study while also opening your eyes to cultures outside of school. I want you to personalize what you learn in this class and use your knowledge in your everyday life and your future. I want you to have fun, but also to understand that learning is not just done in school; it is done all through life!

Theme: Heroes

Topics of study/practice:

The major topics that we will enjoy studying and discussing together are as follows:

- Literature of all genres.
- Grammar in conjunction with writing (please do not be scared of this!)
- Literary elements (metaphors, similes, themes, tone, setting, plot, etc.)
- Writing styles (Narrative, Informational/Expository, Persuasive, Poetry, Short Stories, etc.)
- Vocabulary and application of vocabulary in writing.
- Close/Analytical Reading.
- Research in conjunction with 8th grade History project.
- Presentations to others using a clear presentation style.

Grading Policy:

Grades are earned on a point basis and each assignment will have a point value. Daily grades, such as homework and class assignments, will have a lower grade than major grades such as projects, formal papers, and exams. That is not to say that homework and class work is less important than tests and projects! Most of your grades will consist of your homework. The points for every assignment will be given to you with each assignment. For Haverford's grading policy, please see your student handbook.

Late Assignments:

If homework is one day late, a zero will be written in PENCIL. This means that I have recognized you did not have your work done for that day, BUT if you bring the assignment the following day, you can receive half the credit. If you do not bring the assignment the following day, the zero in pencil will become a zero in pen, meaning you

cannot make up the assignment. Three zero's in pen will result in a phone call to your parents.

Late Papers:

Each day late is three letter grades off the paper; therefore, the paper will not be accepted after the second day late. This is the 8th grade policy and can be seen in your student handbook.

Absences:

The amount of days you were absent is the amount of time you have to make up an assignment or test.

***Note:** If there is a problem or concern on any given assignment/test please speak with me privately! Thank you.

Materials needed in class EVERYDAY:

- Independent reading book.
- Pens, Pencils, Highlighters.
- One small journal notebook or marble notebook for journal purposes. *or 1 sub notebook*
- One three ring notebook (1-2 inch). You must have at least 5 dividers for the following topics:
 - Grammar
 - Literature
 - Vocabulary
 - Worksheets/graded assignments
 - Notes

-1-2 folders

- Paper

Please have lined paper in each section. These sections will hold your worksheets and any notes for those topics. I will give you a chance to punch holes in any worksheet if the worksheet is not hole-punched already. I STRONGLY advise you to get 1-2 folders for other miscellaneous purposes such as the research and writing topics. This will help you to be organized and keep all the materials you will receive in this class! If any of these materials are a problem for you, please see me.

I look forward to working with you all!