

**Mrs. Gingras's Class Syllabus**

Room: B-07

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*Welcome to English Language Arts 7! I am so excited to begin our year together. We have so much to accomplish, and I know by working as a team we can succeed. As a student at OMMS, you will notice that your teachers are striving to help you become a mature and responsible young adult. Everything within this syllabus was designed to help you achieve the levels of maturity and responsibility needed to help you become nothing but the best!*

**OMMS Mission Statement:** The Oak Mountain Middle School Community will model and promote the behaviors necessary for academic and social success. We will provide a safe and caring environment where students are invited to explore who they are and what they want to be. We expect and encourage nothing but the best in each child. We recognize that a student is not a vessel to be filled but a torch to be lit. To this end, we dedicate our time, our talents, and our resources.

**Course Description:** This course will focus on strengthening the following skills: reading comprehension, critical thinking, writing, language (grammar), speaking, presenting and listening. Language Arts 7 will equip students in becoming global citizens prepared for future feats in their academic careers. This course observes all objectives put forth by the College and Career Readiness Standards adopted by Alabama.

**Required Materials:** The following required materials are listed in order of importance. Please bring them to class with you each and every day.

1. Textbook(s) and/or required reading text
2. 3-ring binder with 5 tabbed dividers and a sufficient amount of loose-leaf paper
3. A composition book
4. A blue or black ink pen, a red or green pen, and a pencil
5. A complete pack of colored pencils (*Twistables* are fine as well)
6. A highlighter
7. 2 packs of lined, 3 x 5, white index cards
8. An agenda on which to write down your homework/reminders

Additionally, students will need one folder with pockets to be stored in the classroom for tests and writing assignments and five to ten sheet protectors to be kept in the back of all student binders.

**ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE DUE ON \_\_\_\_\_.**

The following materials are not required, but the donation would be greatly appreciated:

<b>Kleenex</b>	<b>Paper Towels</b>	<b>a Bag of HARD Candy</b>
(1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> periods)	(4 <sup>th</sup> period)	(5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> periods)

**Required Texts:** The following novels will be covered throughout the school year:

- ***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*** by Mildred D. Taylor
- ***The Man Who Was Poe*** by Avi
- ***The Giver*** by Lois Lowry

**Additional Information Regarding Required Texts:** [1] A hard-copy of each novel is preferred, but digital copies will be accepted via a tablet (i.e.: Kindle, Nook or iPad); however, **students will not be permitted to use cell phones to obtain their required reading.** [2] You will have the opportunity to pre-purchase these novels through OMMS's Media Center. More information concerning this perk will be forthcoming.

**Technology Policy:** Personal and school-loaned devices will be used for academic enhancement only. Students who have a device are encouraged to bring it **with Mrs. Gingras's prior permission ONLY**. Mrs. Gingras will observe the "3 Strike Device Rule" and has the right to deny device usage based on the activity of the day. Free academic apps may be used during class time with more details to come and with permission given by Mrs. Gingras.

## **Basic Classroom Rules**

1. Come to class prepared.
2. Treat all people and property with respect.
3. Listen the FIRST time.
4. Talk or leave your seat only with permission.
5. Allow yourself and others the opportunity to learn.

## **Classroom Procedures:**

- Students will gather their required materials and be seated before the tardy bell rings.  
*\*\*You are not to wait until the bell rings to begin. If you are not in your seat with your materials out and working when the tardy bell rings, you will be considered tardy.*
- Upon entering the room, students will begin working on the bell ringer activity. There will be a prompt on the board at the beginning of every class.
- Students may use pencils or pens (blue or black) for class work. Students should also head all work with a first and last name, the date, and the assignment title. (First and last name is REQUIRED on all papers.)
- During class, students will stay alert and remain respectful. Students should not put their heads on their desks or talk while others are talking/working. Students should always listen carefully to directions. Students will raise their hands in order to speak or to leave their seats.
- Students who finish work early should read their required “choice” novel or work on other activities designated by Mrs. Gingras. Students are also allowed to visit the library during their extra time on a limited basis.
- Students are expected and required to complete all assignments to the best of their ability. Not doing work is NOT AN OPTION. **I will fully enforce the OMMS “Every Assignment Every Time” policy.**
- Students will clean the area around their desk. All paper and trash are placed in the wastebasket before leaving.
- The bell does not dismiss students; Mrs. Gingras does.

**Discipline Procedures:** In the event of discipline problems, I will follow the steps listed below.

- First offence – a verbal warning
- Second offence – a documented warning (pink slip)
- Third offence – Detention
- Four or more offences – detention and parent/teacher conference and/or an office referral

**Make-Up Work:** I will follow the handbook policy for all make-up work. It is the **student’s responsibility** to complete make-up work. Students may check my blog at any time. Students are welcomed to meet with me before school or during advisory regarding missed assignments. I will not continuously remind students of their make-up work.

**Notebooks:** Each student will maintain a **current and organized** notebook. The notebook will be a vital part of our day-to-day class activities. It will consist of 5 mandatory sections marked with dividers. We will create the divider labels together in class. It is the student’s responsibility to keep his or her notebook neat and up to date.

**Students should be prepared for a notebook test at the end of each grading period.** The organization of students’ notebooks will also determine how well students perform on other activities, such as their bell ringer participation. A student’s success in this class is dependent upon his or her ability to keep an orderly notebook.

**Graded Work** If you submit work for a grade, it must clearly state your first and last name. Work completed without a student’s first and last name will not receive full credit. Your first and last name, the date and the assignment name must be written at the top of your paper. Additionally, any graded assignment that you get back from me should be kept with you in your notebook for the remainder of the nine weeks. Do not throw anything away until we have our “Clean Up, Clean Out Day.” This will not happen until grades have been verified and no changes need to be made. Graded major assignments will be stored in classroom test folders but are accessible for parent review upon request or conference. Students should always keep returned graded work in their notebook.

**Written Essays:** Students will most likely have at least one writing unit each nine weeks. Nearly all of the writing process will take place in class. Each step of the writing process will be turned in with the final draft.

**Extra Credit:** Bonus opportunities will be given sporadically throughout each grading period. I highly encourage all students to take advantage of bonus opportunities when they are given. Even if your grade is fine at that time, you never know if you will need those points later. Asking Mrs. Gingras, “Can I do extra credit?” will not be sufficient.

*\*\*This syllabus is subject to change.*

***Please sign and return this portion tomorrow.***

I have read Mrs. Gingras's syllabus, and I understand the expectations for this year. I agree to do what is expected of me this year in her class.

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Student Signature

Date

I have read Mrs. Gingras's syllabus with my child, and I agree to hold my child accountable for what is expected of him or her.

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Parent Signature

Date

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Parent Email Address (Please print clearly)

Parent Contact Number

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Additional Parent Email Address (Please print clearly)

Additional Parent Contact Number

***Please sign and return this portion tomorrow.***

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