

# Northwest Junior High Literacy 7: 18/19

Dear Students and Guardians,

Hello! Welcome to Literacy 7! It is wonderful to meet you.

Literacy 7 is a required year-long course for all seventh graders. The goal of this course is to **challenge each student at their individual level** so they make growth and become engaged, fluent, and competent readers of a variety of texts. Students will study and practice strategies that will help them understand increasingly difficult reading material, both fiction and nonfiction, throughout their personal and academic lives.

Your student will never be graded in comparison to other students in the class. It doesn't matter if your student comes to me at a 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or college reading level: my job is to get to know your student and support his or her individual needs. Students are assessed on a standards-based scale for each formative and summative assessment. Their final grade reflects their commitment to growth and mastery of the skills learned. (Please see back side for explanation of grading.)

## In Literacy 7, we learn how to:

- Critically read independent texts (silent reading, text selecting, annotating, journaling, discussing)
- Annotate fiction and nonfiction texts (using Kyleene Beers' "Signposts")
- Participate in an all-class read--*The Outsiders* by SE Hinton (characterization, conflict, and theme work)
- Read and analyze nonfiction texts (identifying author's purpose, thesis, text structures, features, and bias)
- Identify and discuss author's thesis, structure, voice and figurative language in poetry
- Practice and perform small group discourse in literature circles (tracking theme, utilizing text evidence)

## Materials necessary:

I ask that students bring the following materials by Monday, August 27th. **If you are unable to provide these materials, please let me know and I/the school will gladly help!**

<u>Personal Supplies</u>	<u>Supplies for the Community Bin</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1 composition or spiral notebook</li><li>● pens/pencils</li><li>● independent reading material from home or library (we will discuss this in class)</li><li>● earbuds/headphones</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 3x3 sticky notes</li><li>● 2 highlighters (any color)</li></ul>

## Contact Information

- **Course website on Canvas:** You can find daily plans, links to handouts/documents, and homework assignments on my Canvas course page. I know this is our first year with 1-1 tech, so please reach out with any questions. Please use this valuable resource, as I will be posting resources regularly.
- **E-mail/Phone.** I believe strongly in parent-teacher communication. If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.
  - My Email: [lewarne.brooke@iowacityschools.org](mailto:lewarne.brooke@iowacityschools.org); School Phone: 319.688.1060

I look forward to working with you this year! **I hope to see you at Back to School Night, Wednesday, September 5th.**

All my best,  
Ms. LeWarne  
Literacy 7 & Drama Teacher

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## How you will be assessed/graded in Literacy 7:

I feel it is important for students to understand why they're being graded and how to use their grade as a tool for improvement. Keeping this in mind, I post and refer back to the following grading criteria:

Please Note:

- **ALL** assignments in my course are worth 40 points.
- I have **3** weighted categories:
  - 60% : Summative Assessments (Final assignment/project/test for each unit)
  - 30% : Formative Assessments (in-class and out-of-class practice of skills)
  - 10% : Accountability (being prepared, turning work in on time)

All of my rubrics will use this scale with language appropriate to each assessment's context:

91-100% (37-40 points)	<b>Exceeds</b> You add your own ideas and perspectives to your task. You could teach another person this skill. "I can teach someone else."
81-90% (33-36 points)	<b>Meets</b> You consistently meet the target for your task. You are ready to move on. "I can do it on my own."
71-80% (29-32 points)	<b>Developing</b> You show some aspects of meeting the target for your task, especially with familiar texts. "I can do it with the help of a small group."
61-70% (25-28 points)	<b>Emerging</b> You know what to do but you need a little extra 1-1 help to do it. "I need to check in with you every 5 minutes."
51-60% (21-24 points)	<b>Beginning</b> You know what you're supposed to do but you are confused and probably frustrated. You need help to get started. "I need you to sit next to me the whole time."
Below 50% (1-20 points)	<b>Not Evident</b> You missed the opportunity to demonstrate what you know this time around. "I am not ready right now to work on this assessment."

## Re-doing Assignments/Making up Work:

Students will have 48 hours (per each day absent) to make-up/turn-in work.

Also, students may ALWAYS re-do any **formative assessment**. The process to do so:

1. Sign up on Canvas for a Viking Time spot. You must meet with me at least once before re-doing work.
2. At that meeting you'll receive a blank slate to try the practice again, in which case, that assessment will be due 48 hours later. You will also receive the new grade for your awesome new work!
3. You may *not* "make-up" accountability points. You may *not* re-take/re-do summative assessments.