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| Mr. Conrad - El Dorado High School - Room c233  **Reading Improvement Syllabus 2017-18** |



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**Course Description:**

In Reading Improvement, we will be focusing on--you guessed it--improving our reading skills. The method we will employ to achieve this goal is--*right again!*--reading. Not only will we read a variety of texts as a whole class, we will all have the opportunity to independently read books of our own choosing every day. We will use both print materials (books) and online resources, such as iLit and Newsela.com.

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| **Main Requirements**   * Burning curiosity * Boundless enthusiasm * Willingness to take intellectual risks * Appreciation of differing views * Desire to learn | **Other Requirements**   * Three-ringed binder with dividers or folders * Binder paper * Blue or black pens, pencils, highlighter * Agenda for recording assignments and due dates * Independent reading book |

**Grading**

> Your grade will be based on the following categories:

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| Reading: 50%  Writing: 20% | Language Development: 20%  Final Assessment: 10% |  |

**Grading Scale**

> I will use the following grading scale to calculate your progress, quarter, and semester grades:

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| 97-100% = A+  93-96% = A  90-92% = A-  *(****outstanding*** *achievement of all course objectives)* | 87-89% = B+  83-86% = B  80-82% = B-  *(****above-average*** *achievement of major course objectives)* | 77-79% = C+  73-76% = C  70-72% = C-  *(****proficient*** *achievement of basic course objectives)* | 67-69% = D+  63-66% = D  60-62% = D-  *(****minimal*** *achievement of basic course objectives)* | Below 60% = F  *(****little to no*** *achievement of basic course objectives)* |

**Homework**

Your main homework assignment is to **read 20 minutes or more each day** from your independent reading book (7 days a week). Occasionally, other homework will be assigned as needed.

**Late Work**

Late work may be submitted only during the grading period in which the work was assigned. **All** late work *must* be accompanied by a late work cover sheet (see attached).

**Originality (plagiarism)**

All work submitted must be original. Using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own is considered plagiarism and will result in a score of **zero** on the assignment. Repeat offences may result in increased penalties, *including a grade of F for the course*.

**Absences**

If you are absent it is your responsibility to check with me and/or classmates to get make-up work. If your absence is for sports or other school-related activities, I expect you to return the following class period with your work complete, including any work due on that class period. If your absence is excused, you will receive the number of days equal to the length of your absence to make up the work. It is *your* responsibility to make up any essays, tests or quizzes that you miss due to absence.

**Tardiness**

You must be in your seat and on task (independent reading) when the tardy bell rings to be considered on time for class. If you are not in your seat and on task when the bell rings, you will be marked tardy.

**Office Hours**

I am available for one-on-one assistance or make-up work most days before school, during lunch, and occasionally after school. *Check with me ahead of time* so you know I will be here.

**Cell Phones**

In order to ensure a productive, distraction-free environment, ***you will check in your cell phone each day at the beginning of class.*** You will not have access to it until the last five minutes of the class period.

**Classroom Rules**

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| * Check in cell phones at the beginning of each class * Be in your seat and on task when the bell rings * Be kind and respectful |  |

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Independent Reading Plan - Reading Improvement

**Overview:**

Over the course of the coming school year, you will independently select and read **10 or more** books. It is your choice which books you will read, but you should read from five or more genres.

**Requirements:**

* You must bring a book to read every day in class, as we will do independent reading at the beginning of most class periods. You may select books from home, the county library, school library, classroom library, bookstore, thrift store, or online.
* Choose books that are an appropriate reading level for you (not too easy, not too difficult).
* Paper books or e-readers are allowed in the classroom. While I encourage you to read on your phone outside of school, phones will not be allowed in class.
* To meet the reading requirement, you will need to read both in class **and** at home (and in the car, on the bus, at the grocery store, anytime and anywhere you get the chance!).

**Homework:**

Read at least 20 minutes every day outside of class (7 days a week).

**Assessment:**

Although we won’t be completing traditional reading assessments, such as tests or book reports, you will show your engagement with your reading program through these assessment methods:

1. Book Tally Pages - As you finish each book, you will record it in your tally page. Read 20 books or more by the end of the school year to receive full credit. Make sure to meet the genre requirements!
2. Reader response letter - Each week you will write a one-page handwritten ‘letter’ to the author of your book discussing your reaction to what you have read that week.
3. Book Talks - Once each quarter you will make a short presentation to the class about a book you are reading (or have read) that you would recommend to your peers.
4. Book Review - Once each semester you will write a book review, just like you might find in a magazine or newspaper. We will study real book reviews in order to find out how to make our own.

**Suggested Genres:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| * Realistic Fiction * Historical Fiction * Nonfiction (Informational) | * Science Fiction * Fantasy * Mystery / Suspense | * Poetry * Graphic Novel * Biography, autobiography, memoir |

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Independent Reading - book tally pages

**Directions:** Afterfinishinga book, please record it below.

Then, rate the book on a scale of 1-5. Thanks!

Genre Title Author rating

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**Book Wish List (want to read)**

Title Author Genre

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**Parent / Guardian Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best contact phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (home / work / cell)

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best way to contact you? (phone / email)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best contact phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (home / work / cell)

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Best way to contact you? (phone / email)

As her or his Reading teacher, what might be helpful for me to know about your student?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Acknowledgement:**

> After carefully reviewing the above information, please print, sign, and date, then detach this page and return to Mr. Conrad.

* I have read thoroughly, understand, and agree to the conditions described in the class syllabus, including the proactive confiscation of cell phones:

Student’s name (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Student’s signature** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date

Parent or guardian’s name (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent or guardian’s signature** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date