

Intro to Literature: Read it – Write it! 2014-15 Student/Parent Class Agreement

Teacher Contact: John Jenkins (john@rpclasses.com or 703-507-9379)

Intro to Literature helps develop critical reading skills in your Junior High student through this unique *Read it – Write it!* literature class. First, using short stories and novels written by John Jenkins, as well other classic short stories and novels, students will learn how to *read* and explore a broad range of literary genres, themes and literary traditions. Second, students will learn how to bring those developing skills to life by *writing* literature, using proven fiction-writing techniques aimed at the Jr. High level, and imitating the techniques of master storytellers they have read.

What You Will Learn

Students will learn 1) the historical and literary contexts from antiquity to the 20th century, 2) the author's worldviews, and 3) the fundamentals of figurative language. Students will apply their knowledge through class discussions and presentations, and by writing scenes and vignettes suggested by the short stories' novels' plots, characters, and themes. Students will learn the basics of effective dialog, writing descriptively, and plot development.

PREREQUISITES. Appropriate reading speed and comprehension skills for age level, can use Microsoft Word or equivalent, and conduct computer research and typing.

Requirements

1. Reading schedule can include 10-20 pages of guided reading per week, including book mark-ups and quote selections.
2. Throughout the year, students will develop and maintain a 3-ring class notebook containing all of the school years research, in-class and homework assignments (in-progress and completed) and handouts. A key component of the notebook is the Grade Sheet. Students are required to keep a record of all assignments (assignment name, due date, grade). Failure to maintain a class notebook can result in suspension from class until the notebook is updated.

3. Students will also complete up to 20 in-class or take home writing/reading exercises. Failure to turn in an assignment on time can result in the lowering of the student's grade of one grade level per week.

4. There are no make-up classes for missed days. Students must initiate communication with the teacher or a classmate to find out the week's assignments if the class homework guide does not already state the assignment. As long as a student completes an assignment on time and according to the assignment's requirements, there are no penalties. Use USPS stamp mail for any late assignments.

5. Final grades will be given on a standard 4.0 scale and a grading rubric given in class. Semester grades will also be provided at year end. Parents and students should track student progress using the Grading Sheet provided the first day of class. This is a 1 credit class.

6. All homework assignments are posted at rpclasses.com/homework by class.

7. Material/copy fees: \$35. If paperback books are required (max \$25), teacher will order.

Parent's Involvement

- 1) Obtain and read the *Getting Started* document for Mr. Jenkins classes from www.rpclasses.com**
- 2) Monitor a student's homework schedule**
- 3) Monitor the student's class notebook**
- 4) Collect the student's assignment grades**
- 5) Read the class N-G-E evaluation system and grading rubrics**

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Please keep a copy of this agreement for your records. Return the second copy with your student before the 3rd week of class.