

8th Honors Language Arts

Miss Crossley, Room 507

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Class Website: crossleyela.weebly.com



Course Description

Students will develop mastery of reading, writing, and critical thinking skills through a variety of long- and short-term assignments, both individually and collaboratively. Also, we will focus on the reinforcement of standard grammar usage skills and the application of those skills to writing projects. We will complete four novel units throughout the year (one per quarter). In addition to our four novel units, we will be completing one honors project per quarter.

What I Expect

- Every student fulfills his/her Honors contract.
- Every student is responsible for his/her own learning.
- Every student is prepared for class daily.
- Every student tries every day to achieve greater mastery.
- Every student supports his/her classmates.

Class Rules and Behavioral Consequences*

- #1: Follow directions the first time.
- #2: Follow all classroom procedures.
- #3: Stay in your space and keep it nice.
- #4: Come to class on time and prepared to work.
- #5: Treat others and equipment with respect.

Class Culture

A classroom culture is the foundation of our classroom environment. My expectations and rules are designed to empower YOU and make YOU feel comfortable in our room.

Necessary Supplies

- One 100 sheet, college-ruled composition notebook
- Pencil and black pen

Positive Consequences	Negative Consequences
Praise	Warning
Music time earned	Responsible Thinking + Parent Contact
Choose your seat one day	Responsible Thinking + Teacher Conference + Parent Contact
Positive notes home	Behavior Contract + Parent Contact
Play an appropriate LA game with a friend	Administrative Referral **

*Please remember *you* choose your consequences by your actions. ** Severe Disruptions = Immediate Administrative Referral

Grades

This year we are starting to transition to Standards-Based Grading. We will still have traditional letter grades, but we will be shifting the bulk of our grading to mastery assignments. Here's our new weighted scoring for the year:

- Mastery Grades - 80% - Tests, large projects, exit tickets, quizzes, and anything else used to gauge mastery. These are graded on 'correctness' to help me determine how much each student has learned and when they've 'mastered' a skill.
- Assignments - 15% - Classwork and homework to help practice skills and standards. These are practice and will be graded on completion.
- Starters - 5% - We will have a starter every day in order to start class on time and review content.

Our letter grades will be determined on the following scale:

A	93-100	B	84-86	C	73-77	D	64-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-83	C-	70-72	D-	60-63
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59

Late/Missing Work

Under a mastery grading system, there is no room for either extra credit or late penalties. Both distort grades so that they no longer give an accurate picture of what a student can do. Instead of extra credit, students will have the opportunity to redo assignments from all grading categories in order to achieve a higher level of mastery.

Late penalties will not be applied to grades for work that is past due--but students will be held accountable on their citizenship grades. More than 3 late assignments in a term will drop their citizenship down to the next level. More than 5 late assignments per term will drop citizenship two levels.

Students can get help before school, after school, and during RTI. If a student is absent, he/she will be able to pick up work in class from our make-up crate in class or download work off the class website. Any classwork not finished in class becomes homework.

Cheating

Cheating will never be tolerated. Cheating includes plagiarism and copying another student's work. The student cheating will need to redo the assignment for a maximum of 50% credit and will receive a drop in citizenship.

Important Deadlines

Please make sure to have all work for the term turned in by these dates. It ensures that I have time to grade everything accurately.

1 st midterm cut-off: Monday, September 25	1st term cut-off: Monday, October 23
2 nd midterm cut-off: Monday, December 4	2nd term cut-off: Monday, January 8
3 rd midterm cut-off: Monday, February 12	3rd term cut-off: Monday, March 19
4 th midterm cut-off: Monday, April 30	4th term cut-off: Friday, May 25

Chromebooks

We will receive a class set of class Chromebooks this year! In order to keep these Chromebooks in top, working shape, each student will be assigned to a Chromebook.

- Always carry your Chromebook with both hands
- Treat it like you spent 250 dollars on it
- Use it for school purposes only
- Report any damage or vandalism immediately

Misuse of Chromebooks will result in Chromebook privileges revoked. Students can always complete a hard copy of an assignment.

Google Classroom/Class Website

Visit our class website at crossleyela.weebly.com. I upload work and post daily agendas to the 8th Honors grade page at least weekly. We will also be using Google Classroom for multiple assignments throughout the year, after we receive our Chromebooks. This is convenient for students who miss school, because they will be able to make up work anywhere they have internet access. Parents can also monitor assignments and progress through Google Classroom; parents can also access assignments through our class website.

Media

Our learning standards this year include comparing, contrasting, and analyzing printed versions of literature alongside their movie counterparts. In class, we may show either clips or entire feature films for the following titles: *Hook*, *Fox & the Hound*, *Little Women*, and *The Invisible Man*. If I feel inclined to add a movie to this list, I will send an email via Skyward informing guardians of any changes.

Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to review this class contract. I am excited to get to know you over this next year! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I am here to help you succeed and am anxious to do so.

Sincerely,
Miss Crossley

--- --- --- Please sign to indicate you have read and agree to abide by the class contract. --- --- ---
Return this last page to class by Monday, August 28th.

Parent/Guardian and Student Acknowledgement

I have read, understand, and agree to follow the expectations for Miss Crossley's class.

(Printed) Student Name: _____ Class Period: _____

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Information

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Preferred method of contact:

- Email
- Phone call

_____ (Y/N) I would like to be added as a guardian to Google Classroom in order to monitor my child's work and progress

_____ (Y/N) My child has permission to edit and help grade peers' work in class

When is the best time of day to reach you by phone? _____

Comments/Concerns:

We will occasionally view PG rated films in whole or in clips to aid in understanding. We may view the following films, with some scenes skipped due to inappropriate content:

- Little Women (1994) PG
- The Invisible Man (1993) NR [this is prior to ratings; it is a black and white film]
- Hook (1991) PG

By signing below you are giving your child permission to watch the films listed above. If you have specific concerns, feel free to email me and I will provide alternative assignments.

Parent Signature