



6th Grade Literature Mr. Ferraro



TEXT: The text we use in Literature is Holt, Rhinehart, and Winston's Elements of Literature. We also read three novels selected from the approved sixth grade list. In addition to our text book and three novels, we also have independent reading using the Reading Counts program.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In Literature, our goals are as follows:

1. To understand the nature, purpose, and value of reading.
2. To develop and acquire the skills necessary for reading, including word analysis and comprehension strategies.
3. To develop oral language skills.
4. To develop listening skills.
5. To teach children to use reading as a tool for learning.
6. To develop an enjoyment and early independence in reading.
7. To develop self-confident, thoughtful readers.
8. To provide an appreciation of literature.
9. To provide written activities for decoding vocabulary and instruction and reinforcement of comprehension skills.
10. To provide flexible reading rates to meet the needs of our students.
11. To develop a respect for others in a changing society through reading and discussing.

CLASS ACTIVITIES/HOMEWORK POLICY: If a class activity or homework assignment is not turned in at the beginning of class on the due date it will be considered LATE and will be worth half credit. If the late assignment is not turned in the following day, a ZERO will be issued. Upon the 3rd late or missing assignment, academic intervention will be recommended.

INDEPENDENT READING PROGRAM: The goal of this program is to make reading an enjoyable experience, something that you will love to do for a lifetime! With that being said, here is what is expected for each student.

The goal of this program is to make reading an enjoyable experience, something that you will love to do for a lifetime! With that being said, here is what we expect from each and every one of you:

- You will be required to read a minimum of 3 books per trimester, with the due dates for each book. Students who do **not** complete a book by the deadline will receive a progress report that alerts the parents to this fact (due dates are meant simply to keep the students "on track", but as long as a student completes all 3 books by the end of the trimester, they will receive full credit).
- There is also an "extra credit" book option- if you complete a 4th book by the end of the trimester, you will earn extra credit toward your grade!

- You have 3 options that you can choose from:
 - 1) Choose a selection from our extensive Scholastic collection and take a computerized test on that book,
 - 2) Give a “book talk” **AND** turn in a “reading log” on a selection of your choice that has been approved by your teacher, or
 - 3) Read one of the current year’s *Rebecca Caudill* nominated books and take a computerized test.

****Keep in mind that in order to be an “official *Rebecca Caudill* judge” in February, students must have read 3 of the *Rebecca Caudill* selections and passed the tests on these selections as well.**

- Your independent reading requirement is worth 30 points per trimester, which translates to 10 points per book. Your grade will then be based on whether or not you achieve your 3 book per trimester requirement.
- We will visit the library every week (usually Friday) during your class time to either choose a book or return a book. **STUDENT ID’S ARE A MUST FOR CHECKING OUT BOOKS!**
- If you choose to take a computerized test on a book, you are allowed 3 attempts to pass the test (you need a 7 out of 10 to pass). The 1st and 2nd time that you take the test, **you may not use the book.** The 3rd and final time you take the test, you may use the book for a maximum of 3 minutes.
- Books that are 400 pages or more in length will count as 2 books completed (**EXCEPT *Rebecca Caudill* books-make sure to check with your teacher BEFORE you begin reading the book to see if the book qualifies as 2 books).**
- We encourage you to read a minimum of 20 minutes every night (longer on the weekends) so that you don’t fall behind!
- If you would like any help choosing a selection that we think you might enjoy, just ask! Mrs. Raines is also very good at helping make selections too! ☺
- We expect you to choose a book that reflects your reading ability, not necessarily your lexile level.

TEST POLICY: Tests can be retaken if a student receives a D or lower on the test PROVIDED the student has no missing or late work. The retest must be taken within one week of the original test date. This test policy may change at any time. The test policy for the Reading Counts Program is different. See the above section on Independent Reading.

ABSENT POLICY: Please refer to the student handbook. **It is the student’s responsibility to get any missing work from me for the day or days they are absent from school.**

GRADING POLICY: Literature will be graded on a point system. Points will vary depending on the size of each class activity, quiz, and test. For quizzes, I give at least one-day notice and for test, I give at least two days notice.

PHONE CALLS: If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 469-4474 extension 4152. I am available Monday – Friday from 7:30 am – 7:55 am and 2:20 pm – 2:40pm. If you are unable to reach me in the morning, please leave a voice mail and I will return your call as soon as possible. Or you can e-mail me at jferraro@fsd157c.org

ONLINE LITERATURE BOOK:

Follow these steps to access your textbook online:

- Go to <http://my.hrw.com/>
- Enter your username and password (your child will receive this in class)
- Click on "Go to the Online Textbook"
- Click on the picture of the book
- Search for what you are looking for by clicking on the links on the left of the screen
- Here, you can read the story and complete additional tasks in order to understand the story or concept better.

Occasionally, your teacher may have assignments for you that are through this website. To access the assignments:

- Go to <http://my.hrw.com/>
- Enter your username and password (your child received this in class)
- Choose "View Assignments"
- Choose the assignment that your teacher has set up for you
- Choose the correct book

You may find out the scores of *some* of the assignments by following these steps:

- Go to <http://my.hrw.com/>
- Enter your username and password (your child received this in class)
- Choose "View Progress Reports"