

Book Love * Grade 7 English

Dear Parent or Guardian,

One of our main goals is to establish a reading habit in the busy lives of all of our students. We are hoping that we can work together to recapture or retain the pleasure and passion of reading within your child. Please take the time to read this letter and the “Book Love” overview (below) to understand our 7th grade English approach to independent reading.

The best books challenge our beliefs by helping us see things through different eyes—they allow us to live a different life. Middle school students’ life experiences, interests, personalities, goals as well as their range of social and emotional development are vast and varied. They also have different opinions about reading, both positive and negative, and different skill levels for reading. Students are very good at picking books that work for them and deal with issues they want to explore. They are also very good at abandoning books that are not right for them.

Though we wish we could, we will not know the details of every book that students read this year, and we will not remember the details of every book we recommend to students. What we want for all our students is for them to always be reading something that they want to read. This has tremendous benefits such as relieving stress, building stamina as a reader, and expanding vocabulary.

Since choice will play such a huge role in this independent reading program, we feel it is important that you know our classroom library features a wide range of genres, levels, and topics to meet the needs of our very diverse students. However, we respect your role as parent or guardian and your family’s values and beliefs. So we ask that you closely monitor your child’s choices this year. We encourage you to help your child choose their independent reading books and to discuss these books with them as they go.

Also, if you are inclined, please consider donating books your child no longer needs or wants to our classroom libraries. The book you donate could spark a passion for reading in one of your child’s classmates! Thank you so very much for your support. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact your child’s English teacher.

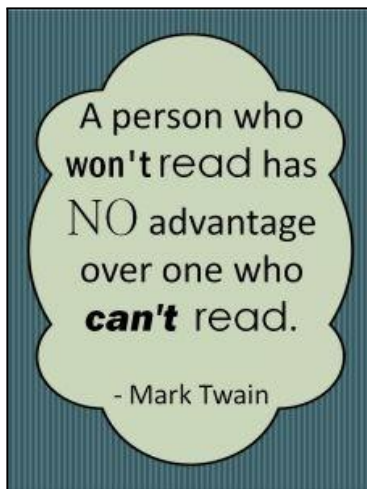
Sincerely,

Amy Chase

Team Titan

Lynn DiZazzo

Team Summit



BOOK L♥VE

(Independent Free-Choice Reading)

Philosophy & Requirements

Students who read habitually become better readers and better writers. All year in English class, you will be asked to simply READ books that you **want** to read. Awesome, right?

You are **expected** to have your book in school with you each day. You will start your English classes AND your skills periods each day with silent reading. You might have time to read after a test or quiz in one of your classes as well, and we will also read every Friday in English class. We will call Fridays “Book Love Fridays.” It’s the best. Oh, and you should read at home for at least 20 minutes a day (most days) as well.

Instructions

1. Choose a book to read...DUH! This could be the book you are currently reading, or you may need to select a new book for a variety of reasons--you don’t like your book, it is too easy or challenging, or there is an assigned genre for that reading period.
2. Read, read, read! You will have time to read during the school day on most days, but you will also be expected to read at home for *at least 20 minutes a day a few times a week*. Some parents monitor this closely, and others take their child's word for it. I trust that parents and students will work this arrangement out together! I am NOT asking students to log **when** they read (yuck!) -- I only care about students making reading an enjoyable habit. Do I care if you read for 40 minutes one day and then take a day “off” from reading because of sports/activities/other homework/etc? NO! Do you like to sit down and read a lot on the weekend? Great! I am not monitoring your time read each day.
3. Be ready to discuss books in class with your peers, conference with me about your books, etc. You will never be “tested” on your book or complete a project based on it. Your goal is to just read and enjoy it.

4. When you finish a book, it is expected that you update your “digital bookshelf” (in Google Classroom) and then find a new book on your own. We will spend time in class recommending books and visiting the library to help you with this.
5. Fridays will be devoted to “BOOK LOVE.” We will participate in several reading-related activities–“first chapter Fridays,” book talks, book chats with your peers, a *tiny* bit of record keeping (your “digital bookshelf”), and one-on-one conferences* with me! Oh, and you will have time to read independently on Fridays, too!

*As mentioned above, I will connect with students and check in each Friday. These will be referred to as book conferences. We will discuss how the reading is going, what book you are reading, what page you are on, what you might want to read next, etc. No need to prepare for these! It’s just a casual conversation to chat about reading.

Expectations

- Read as much as you can, as **joyfully** as you can.
- Find books, authors, subjects, themes, and genres that **matter** to you, your life, who you are now, and who you might become.
- **Try** new books, authors, subjects, purposes, and genres. Expand your knowledge, your experience, and your appreciation of literature.
- Have your book **with you** each day.
- **Abandon** a book that you don’t like. You should only read books that are enjoyable for you. If you have given a book a fair shot and are just not “into it,” then by all means move on to a new title.
- Work toward new **goals** for yourself as a reader and responder of literature.
- Take reading and **appreciating** literature seriously.
- Update your “**digital bookshelf**” throughout the year to reflect all the books you have read.