



Welcome to 8th grade reading and English! I work very hard in my role as a teacher to do the best job I can, and I expect you to do the same in your role as a student. I am looking forward to an exciting year as we learn and share our ideas, talents, and interests.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the rules for reading / English class?

- As eighth graders I expect you to be mature and responsible individuals. As a result, there are not “rules” in reading and English class. Instead, you will work together to create class mission and vision statements. These statements will contain your values and the expectations you will hold for yourselves and for each other. Since you will create it, you will “own” it and “live” it.

What happens if I break the rules?

- Your behavior not only affects your own learning, but the learning of your classmates as well. Therefore, students who MAKE THE CHOICE (because your behavior is, afterall, *your choice*) to act inappropriately will be dealt with accordingly. This year, we will incorporate a new “allowance” program into our days. The severity and specificity of consequences given will vary depending on the action / behavior exhibited.

How will I be graded?

- Grading is based on percentages. Every assignment, quiz, test, paper, or project will earn a percent score. You will have an opportunity to earn a grade on all of the above; however, a zero will be recorded if the assignment is not turned in or if a student is caught cheating. Daily assignments are not worth as much as papers, tests, or projects.
- Participation points are also given for various activities.
- Please note – this is a very PROJECT BASED class. I often prefer to assess your knowledge based on a comprehensive project rather than a test. Your organizational skills will be very important this year!
- The grading scale can be found at the front of the room.

Are there any assignment expectations?

- You work hard on your assignments and homework, so make sure that comes through by:
 - o Cutting off all fringes
 - o Using clean and unwrinkled paper (not the stuff you found lying at the bottom of your locker!)
 - o TURNING YOUR ASSIGNMENTS IN ON TIME (*Remember, all homework is due at the beginning of the hour, unless otherwise stated.*)

Is late work accepted?

- As stated in the 7th and 8th grade “homework policy,” work that is not completed *will receive a zero*. No late work is accepted. As long as you stay organized and up to date in your assignment notebook, this should not be a problem. Please see the homework policy in the student handbook if you have any questions. If you are not turning in an assignment on the day it is due, you will be expected to complete a MISSING WORK FORM. Those can be found on the FYI bulletin board in the front of my room.
- Assignment due dates are posted on my website, on the calendar in the back of the room, on my board.

What should I bring to class each day?

- School is your job, and in order to be successful at your job, you must be prepared. Bring the following with you to class, EVERY DAY: paper, a writing utensil, any homework due, any necessary books (i.e. Expert 21, novel, etc.), and AR book

What information can be found on your website?

- My website can be a valuable tool, please use it! There, you will find due dates, copies of handouts / rubrics, memory book questions, class pictures, contest information, weekly class updates, and more.
- <http://www.uges.k12.wi.us/webpages/showard/>



What should I do if I am absent?

- Upon returning from an absence, you must visit the handout section in the back of my room. *Please visit this section of the room, talk to a responsible classmate about what you missed, AND THEN see me.* In that corner, you will be able to find several things:
 - o The topic discussed on the day you were absent
 - o Whether or not homework was assigned or due on the day you were absent
 - o Any extra handouts given on the day you were absent
- As per the student handbook, for each day of class you miss, you will have two days to turn in the assignment. If your assignment is not completed after those two days are up, then you will receive a zero.
- Work assigned prior to your absence is expected to accompany you upon your return to school. For example, work assigned on Monday while you were in class is due upon your return Wednesday after your Tuesday absence. If I assign a long-term project or assignment that is due, say, in two weeks and you are absent sometime during the two weeks, you are still expected to have the assignment completed by the original due date. Lengthy absences will receive special consideration.

Is Extra Credit ever offered?

- Every now and then extra credit opportunities will arise (specifically at the end of quarters). Please note that extra credit is not designed to completely “save” your grade – hard work throughout the entire quarter will do that. Extra credit is there to give you a few extra points to help you go from that B+ to A-.

Do we need AR points?

- Yes! AR points will be required every quarter. The amount needed per quarter will be discussed later. Extra credit will be offered for those who earn more than their required point totals. “Book Reports” can be completed in lieu of taking AR tests.

Do I need a journal?

- Yes, we will write in one several times a week during English class. Please have a journal notebook here by _____.

Do we have to do a Memory Book?

- Absolutely! We will get started on those right away this week!

What if I need help?

- If at any time you are having difficulty with the work or anything that is going on in class (or school), please feel free to discuss that matter with me (or write me a note / send me an e-mail/post your question in the “parking lot” if that would make you more comfortable). I will be more than happy to help you in any way that I can.

I am excited about this new year and you should be too! I hope we can work together to make it a productive, creative, and fun year.

Mrs. Howard
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878-2015 ext. 1007

PLEASE RETURN BY _____

I have read the class policies and have asked for clarification if I do not understand them. _____
Student's signature

The student is entitled to five bonus points for returning this slip with a parent / guardian's signature. The signature indicates that the parent/guardian has read this handout explaining class policies.

Parent / Guardian's Signatur