About 7th Grade Language Arts

**Class Structure**

In order to adequately prepare Jr. High students for high school, we will be touching on a wide variety of subjects and skill sets. Each quarter will consist of:

* 3-4 sections of vocabulary and spelling
* One novel that we will read and discuss as a class. Each novel will have a corresponding test.
* One essay, usually pertaining to ideas from that quarter’s novel. We will do a different type of essay each quarter.
* Grammatical corrections and revisions that will be done using the essays students are writing
* One book report

\* In this class, grammar is learned and taught primarily through writing. I collect data on students’ strengths and weaknesses in grammar and usage from essays. I then use that data in order to design lessons that meet the students’ specific needs.

**Reading**

We will be reading/discussing the following works:

* *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson (summer reading)
* *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan (summer reading)
* *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen
* *Gregor the Overlander* by Suzanne Collins
* *My Brother Sam is Dead* by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier
* *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin
* *A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley,* an adaptation written by
* Various poems and short stories

**Assignments**

Assignments will be composed primarily of spelling and vocabulary, reading and comprehension questions, and essay writing. (I do provide a lot of in-class time for writing workshop.)

**Essays**

Throughout this school year, we will be writing one descriptive essay, one research essay, one persuasive essay, and one narrative essay. If there is time left in the quarter, students are welcome to keep revising and turning in essays until they have their desired grade. It is my goal for students to reflect on opportunities for improvement and then make those improvements. Students will also learn how to cite sources in MLA format and put essays in MLA format. This will be essential for them in high school and college.

**Speeches**

In the third quarter, we will begin work on the infamous 7th grade speeches. Every student will be required to prepare and recite a speech for the class (unless decided otherwise because of extenuating circumstances.) The accompanying speech contest is optional, but encouraged!