**To Ms. Nastasi’s Seventh Grade English Classroom!**

 **Introduction:** Welcome to seventh grade English Language Arts. I am excited to be working with all of you this year and know that your experience in this classroom will be enjoyable. My classroom is one that will be open for discussions and group work on the topics that we will be studying. Throughout the year you will be exploring the genres of short stories, drama, fiction, poetry, and nonfiction in depth. We will work together to develop your writing skills as well as understanding of literary elements authors use within different types of text. There will also be an intense focus on developing basic grammatical skills. I look forward to spending the year exploring great literature with you!

**Goals: ![C:\Users\mnastasi\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\INZQT3B8\MC900286624[1].wmf]()**
 Speaking & Listening:
 \* Students will prepare and participate in class discussions.
 \* Students will identify and present information that will support a specific claim in a way that the audience will be able to understand.
 \*Students will be able to identify a speaker’s point of view through the choice of words used, evidence, and the speaker’s tone.

 Reading
 \*Students will review the meaning of literary elements.
 \* Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period.
 \* Students will analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.
 \*Students will evaluate an author’s use of language to shape meaning and tone in a text.

 Writing
 \*Students will experiment with writing persuasive, informative, and narrative pieces of work that show organization
 \*Students will complete mini research projects that require the use of multiple sources of information.
 \* Students will use technology to produce and publish a piece of writing.

**Book List:**



**Materials:** 2 inch binder, loose leaf paper, one composition notebook, 4 dividers (tests/quizzes, homework, vocabulary, notes)

**Expectations:** I have high expectations for every single one of you and together we will work to achieve the set goals of this course. I have an open door policy and I am always willing to provide extra help. You are at the age where you need to begin taking responsibility for your education and I expect my students to take initiative in their learning process. ALL WRITING THAT IS TURNED IN TO ME MUST BE DONE WITH PROPER CAPITALIZATION, PUNCTUATION, AND COMPLETE SENTECES.

\*You are expected to ALWAYS have an independent book with you when you come into my classroom.

 Your quarterly grades will consist of the following point values:

Tests/essays – 50 points
Quizzes/ projects/presentations – 25 points
homework assignments - 10 points
class work/participation -5 points

**Homework Policy:** It is your responsibility to turn in an assignment on the day it is due. If it is not, you will be required to fill out a missing assignment sheet (displayed below). You will be able to turn in late homework for every five week marking period but will only receive half credit; every five weeks begins a new homework period.

* If you are absent you are responsible to make up any work you missed. If homework was assigned the day you were absent it will be due the number of class days you were out. For example: If you are absent two days from school, you will have two school days to make up that work and turn it in for full credit (absent Monday and Tuesday, you will have until Friday to turn in your work)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class Section: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Missing Assignment Sheet**

Completing your homework or assignment is your *responsibility* as a student.

Missing Assignment : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I do not have my homework today because:

\_\_\_\_ I did the assigned homework, but I did not bring it to class \_\_\_\_I chose not to do my homework

\_\_\_\_ I forgot to do my homework \_\_\_\_ I did not have the appropriate materials at home

\_\_\_\_ Other – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What I will do to prevent this from happening in the future: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

 My name is Maria Nastasi and I am a member of the English department at LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School. I would like to send out a warm welcome to you and your student; I look forward to meeting and getting to know every student in my classroom as well as their family. I believe that a strong connection should be developed between school and the home environment. The communication that I have with you will positively benefit your student’s performance in the classroom. I will work closely with each student in order to ensure academic success. I encourage creativity and will facilitate your student’s learning, exploration and discovery of the English Language Arts.

 If there is any information about your child or family that you would like to share please email me at mnastasi@lafayetteschools.org and my website will be updated frequently to ensure consistent communication. I hope to meet you soon and I cannot wait to learn and grow with all of my students throughout the school.

Sincerely,

Maria Nastasi