

Ms. Rankins

8th Grade ELA

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Website: [www.msrankins.weebly.com](http://www.msrankins.weebly.com)

Conference Availability: M, W, & F (7:45am – 8:45am)

Class Texts: (All texts will be provided by the school)

1. Collections

2. Night by Elie Wiesel

3. The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Materials Needed

3 ring binder. (1 inch)

5 subject dividers

Loose leaf paper

Course Objective: Every student in 8th grade ELA will experience fun, enriching, and rigorous activities that will facilitate critical thinking and the formulation of ideas that will enable them to construct learning for themselves that will be utilized for a lifetime.

Classroom Rules

1. Be positive!
2. Be prepared!
3. Be engaged!
4. Be respectful!
5. Be safe!
6. Be productive!
7. Be yourself!

Expectations

1. Once a student enters the classroom, he/she cannot leave. Please handle all business, (i.e. bathroom, seeing other teachers, etc.) before reporting to class.
2. Only those students with medical excuses on file will be excused to go the restroom. Use the restroom during the allotted times for students: between classes, big break, before school.
3. LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED. It is the student’s responsibility to stay abreast of due dates for class assignments and projects.
4. It is the student’s responsibility to get any work missed while absent.
5. Eating and drinking in class is not permitted. (The only exception is reward day)
6. Students who cannot follow the rules or meet the required expectations are subject to the following consequences (the consequence depends on the severity of the offence):
7. Infraction
8. Phone Call/Text Message
9. Parent Conference
10. Behavior Referral

*\*\*\*Comments will be noted in parent access center by the teacher regarding grades & behavior.\*\*\**

Participation

1. Each student will earn a 10 point weekly participation grade.
2. If a student is off task, refusing to participate, or fails to come to class with the required materials, the student’s participation strip will be cut, i.e. points deducted.
3. Students will write their name, weekly date range, and block on the back of their strip behind the number 1.
4. If a student loses or fails to turn in a strip, the student will earn a ZERO for the week.
5. Participation strips will NOT be replaced if they are lost.



It is imperative that students and parents stay connected to the teacher. The teacher will connect with parents and students via: Remind 101, my website, & student planners.

1. REMIND 101

All students & parents are strongly encouraged to join. Remind 101 is secure. You will not see my number, nor will I see yours. Please join the class for which you are enrolled. Important announcements related to homework, classwork, tests, and other information will be sent via Remind 101.

3rd Block text @23gca to 81010

4th Block text @8d3a28 to 81010

5th Block text @d3a8a2 to 81010

Don’t have a smartphone? No worries! You can follow the Remind 101 announcements in real time on my website! Just click on the Remind 101 tab.

1. WEBSITE

[www.msrankins.weebly.com](http://www.msrankins.weebly.com)

1. PLANNERS

All assignments, reminders, & homework will be displayed on the board. Students are required to record all information posted in their planners. Students should have planners every day. Planners will be stamped daily. Participation points will be deducted for failure to bring a planner to class.



AR Requirements and Student Responsibilities

1. AR is worth 100 points, 50 points in English and 50 points in Literature.
2. AR logs will be issued each 9 weeks. Parent signatures are required for your log. Logs will be graded, so please do not lose them. If you lose your log and need a new one, you will be dropped a letter grade.
3. To pass AR each 9 weeks, you must do the following:
4. Take AR tests and pass them with a 60% or higher and meet your AR goal.
5. Students who do not take any AR tests or students who fail to pass any tests will be subject earning a zero out of 100 for the 9 weeks in AR.
6. You will have 15 minutes of class time each day to read your AR book. However, you are also expected to read at home. Class time should not be the only time you read your book.
7. BRING YOUR BOOK TO CLASS EVERYDAY!
8. Students who are not making sufficient AR progress will receive an AR notification letter to be signed by a parent. These notifications will be documented by the teacher.

Check Out Requirements

1. Students must have a reading log in order to check out.
2. Before checking out, students MUST have books approved by the teacher!
3. If a student decides to exchange a book, he/she may do so by notifying the teacher. Exchanges are only allowed one time per 9 weeks.
4. Students can only check out a MG (middle grades), MG+ (middle grades plus), or UG (upper grades) books only! No LG (lower grades) books allowed!

Book Approval

1. Books must be on or above your ZPD.
2. Books must be a minimum of 100 pages.
3. Books must be approved BEFORE you can start reading them.
4. Graphic novels and comic books will not be approved! Additionally, the series from “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” and “Dork Diaries” will not be approved.
5. Students can only get one book at a time approved. Documentation of an AR test is required for subsequent book approvals.
6. AR logs must be completed in INK. All book information (title, author, book level, points, & date) must be on the log before the book can be approved. *\*\*The teacher will verify the book level of ALL books before approving\*\**

Testing

1. You cannot test without an AR log. You must show me your log with my initials (approval).
2. NO STUDENT who claims to have read a book at home without getting the book approved first will be allowed to take a test! NO EXCEPTIONS!
3. There is a 1 test per day limit.

Rewards and Incentives



I offer the following rewards and incentives in my class throughout the school year:

1. When completing group projects, the group with the BEST presentation/project will earn 10 bonus points. This is normally decided by peers based on established criteria.
2. Each nine weeks, one class will be eligible for a reward day. Reward day is given to the class with the highest class average in ELA and Literature. Students are allowed to bring food and drinks.
3. Students who turn in EXEMPLARY work are eligible for a +5. These bonus points are given at THE TEACHER’S discretion and are ONLY for students whose work “blows the teacher away”. Do not ask for a +5. If it was not given, it was not earned.
4. Everyone has the opportunity to be the daily class assistant. Students will rotate in alphabetical order. The daily assistant passes out participation strips, helps to stamp planners, pass out papers, and any other duty the teacher deems necessary. Students who misbehave, cause problems, or fail to follow directions, will lose the privilege of being the assistant.
5. Candy and other treats are earned when the teacher notices significant academic and/or behavioral improvement from individual students or a class as a whole.
6. Raising Canes awards are given to those students excelling in AR during a given 9 week period. To qualify, students must meet and/or exceed their AR goal and average at least 85% on AR tests. Students must have BOTH to qualify.

\*\*Have a wonderful, fulfilling 8th grade year!\*\*