7TH GRADE READING

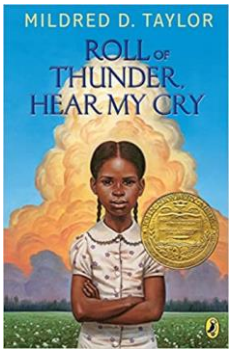
Instructor: Ms. Stanger
Email: rachel.stanger@nebo.edu.
Room 17
Class Website: Canvas
Diamond Fork Contact: 801-798-4052

Course Description

Welcome! I am excited to have you this semester in what will be an exciting and challenging class. The purpose of this class is to improve your reading skills through textual analysis and meaningful discussion while developing important reading strategies that you can use throughout the rest of your life! By the end of the semester (in accordance with your commitment and effort) you will discover your abilities as a reader have increased! I look forward to a great semester!

Class Texts

Whole Class Novel



We will read *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor as a whole class novel. This novel follows a young girl experiencing racism and prejudice in the 1930s. We will pair our discussion of this novel with the nonfiction, informational text *Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of Emmett Till.* This novel is an excellent tool to analyze author craft, characterization, and theme. We will look at each of these elements in detail throughout the upcoming weeks. Additionally, we will look at primary and secondary sources that include mixed media (video clips, articles, etc.)

Literature Circles: The second half of the semester will focus on student choice books and literature circle discussions. You will be given a set of options that fit within a central theme. You will be grouped according to book selection and will read the book with their group, establishing weekly discussion protocols and a time schedule. You will participate in a final project to demonstrate your understanding.

Independent Reading: Each week you are required to read 90 minutes outside of class (class novels count as independent reading).

Required Materials

Class participation is an important element of your final grade and will contribute the most to your learning. It is expected that you come prepared and ready to learn every single day. For this class you will need a couple of essential items everyday:

- **1 composition book** - used specifically for this class. We will keep them in the classroom, so it is important that you have one designated just for this class. You will take notes, participate in dialogues, and keep track of reading in this notebook.
- **1 writing utensil -** (this can either be a pen or pencil)
- **1 green, orange, and blue highlighter** – We will do work with annotating texts. It is important that you have a variety of colors that you can use to mark specific elements of text. These can easily be found together in a pack.

- **Independent reading book** - you will be expected to have an independent reading book which you will read for the first 10 minutes of class every day. You can check a book out from the school library or from my personal library if you don't have one.

*If you are unable to provide any of these please contact me.

School Policies

Our classroom will follow all school policies and procedures.

Citizenship*:* The best learning takes place in a safe community. I expect us all to work together to create the best learning environment for everyone.

Students start each term with 100 citizenship points. Failure to follow class and school rules will result in a loss of citizenship points. Your citizenship is Satisfactory (S) until you drop below 85 points. If you fall below 85 points, your citizenship Needs Improvement (N). Students below 70 points have Unsatisfactory Citizenship (U). Maintaining Satisfactory Citizenship is important, not only for its correlation to classroom learning but also for eligibility reasons. Students below S cannot participate in any school activities.

DIAMOND FORK VALUES CITIZENSHIP	
RESPECT	I take care of my property, school property, and the property of others. I treat students, staff, teachers, and substitutes with dignity. I follow classroom and school rules. I come prepared for class.
COMPASSION	I treat others with kindness and empathy at all times, including on social media. I watch for others who may need a friend, especially members of my team.
COURAGE	I stand up for myself and others. I tackle tasks that are difficult. I risk making mistakes. I learn from my mistakes and try again.
CURIOSITY	I ask quality questions. I demonstrate a desire to know and learn. I share my viewpoint and listen to the viewpoint of others.
INTEGRITY	I demonstrate honesty in my actions and words. I work to be my best self in every situation. I do my own work without copying others or allowing others to copy from me.
PERSEVERANCE	I engage and participate during class. I complete my assignments on time. I re-do assignments to strive for mastery of concepts.

Technology (Cell Phones, Earbuds, Kindles, Tablets, etc.): The entire school has adopted a strict personal "no tech" policy. Cellphones, earbuds, kindles, tablets, etc. are not permitted in the classroom. They must be kept in your backpack or in the charging station. If a call needs to be made during class, you can use the phone in the front office. Similarly, if parents wish to get a message to their student during the day, they can call the front office and the message will be delivered. Any violation of the policy, the device will be confiscated and placed in an envelope provided by the school. It will be sent to the front office and secured there until you can retrieve it at the end of the school day. Upon second violation, the procedure will be repeated, and a parent/guardian contact will be made. Upon third and subsequent violations, the procedure will be repeated, and the device will only be released to a parent/guardian.

Attendance: Attendance will be recorded every day at the beginning of the period. If you will be absent at any time, a parent/guardian must call the front office to excuse the absence.

Tardy Procedures: It is expected you will be on time to class. There will be a time log in class which you will sign anytime you leave the classroom for any reason or if you arrive late. The following are what will be marked in the attendance roster.

T—Tardy: student arrives up to 10 minutes late
Late Tardy: student arrives over 10 minutes but under 20 minutes late.
U—Unexcused: student misses more than 20 minutes, even if the student is on a field trip

*Students will be required to serve 30 minutes of lunch detention for every unexcused tardy.

No Opt-Out*:* At Diamond Fork WE DO THE WORK! You are expected to work hard. Failure to do so will result in intervention with administration.

Food and Drink*:* There is no food or drink permitted in the classroom except water.

Consequence Cycle and Interventions: Consequences will follow: 1) a verbal warning from me, 2) another verbal warning and a point deduction from your citizenship grade, 3) an email or phone call to your parents and another point deduction from your citizenship grade and finally 4) involvement of an administrator and any action they feel is appropriate.

Class Policies

Citizenship: Our class rules correspond with Diamond Fork's core values of Respect, Compassion, Courage, Curiosity, Integrity, and Perseverance.

- *Be Prepared* – Come to class with all materials and be ready to work!
- *Be Respectful* – Our rules and procedures are purposeful and should be respected. I also expect high-quality respect between you and your peers.
- *Be Compassionate* – Learning in a community requires positive and compassionate language, behavior, and attitude. Bullying in any form will not be tolerated.
- *Be Honest* – Cheating or any form of dishonesty will not be tolerated. All of your own work should be your own.
- *Be Hardworking* – Classwork and homework are both integral to learning. I expect you to make your best effort to complete all assignments.

*Disregarding or violating any of these values will result in deductions from your citizenship grade as per school policy.

Classroom Library: I have a stocked classroom library made up of my own personal book collection. You are welcome to check out a book! Follow the checkout procedure detailed in class and return the book when you are finished. I have not read everything in the library and try to include a wide variety of genres and skill levels. What you choose to read is up to you and your parents. You can choose what you want to read and are expected to use good judgement. Just like a real library, I will not be held responsible for what you choose to read.

Cheating & Plagiarism: Cheating in any form is unacceptable. Students who cheat will receive a zero for the assignment/assessment and will have their citizenship dropped to a "U". The student will redo the assignment/assessment for 50% credit.

Late Work: Late work will be accepted up to a week after the due date. Any late work will result in point deductions. Besides extenuating circumstances, late work a week late will not be accepted. Please turn in all your work on time.

Make-up work: To develop mastery of any concept, you are allowed to re-do any assignment you feel is worthwhile to get a higher score. You may make up any work that occurred during the term up until the end of the term with no score deduction. You will. Be asked to complete a write up explaining why you made the revisions you did and what you will do moving forward! *It is more advantageous to turn in work on time for a grade then turn it in late. You can decide to re-do the assignment for a higher grade once it is submitted!*

Grade Scale

At Diamond Fork we grade based on mastery of concepts and skills. The grading scale is as follows:

A – 90-100%
B – 80-89%
C – 70-79%
I – 0-69%

Breakdown: 50% Mastery Scores and 50% Participation/Class Assignments

Mastery of Concepts: The purpose of this class is to help you master skills in reading and writing. On Mastery Assignments, you must earn a score of 80% or higher or you will have to redo it. You have one week to redo Mastery Assignments.

Need Help?

I am committed to your success. If you need additional help, feel free to set up a time to meet with me or come in for my office hours. I will be here at 7:35 every morning and until 3:15 every afternoon. Additionally, the school has provided “E-Time” where you are encouraged to get additional help!