



**Reading-Writing Workshop I**  
**Syllabus - Trimester A**  
**Grand Haven High School**  
**English Department**



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**Purpose**

Written text provides a framework for communicating thoughts and ideas - a lifelong skill. **Reading - Writing Workshop I** provides the opportunity for students to practice language arts skills in a supportive workshop environment. This allows the opportunity to work with small, flexible groups that change to concentrate on particular skills. Instruction is targeted to meeting the student reader/writer at their current skill level and developing their performance in all of the language arts.

**Standards Taught**

This class is individualized to student needs so the standards achieved by each student may vary. However, the Michigan High School Content Standards in English Language Arts are always the guidepost for student outcomes and the focus for all skills taught. The overall goal for each student is to improve their skill throughout all areas of the English Language Arts, especially in reading and writing.

**Textbook/Materials**

There is no textbook for this course. Instead, reading selections will be chosen to match both student interest and needed skills. This class utilizes the READ 180 program, which rotates small groups of students through literacy activities including using the READ 180 software on our classroom computers. Small group instruction will target specific skills needed for improvement. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills are integrated into the coursework. Active participation in the class will allow students to expand their understanding of reading strategies, text organization, written conventions, and the literacy skills necessary for a variety of texts.

**Grading Scale**

The grading system of the class is based on a point system. All assignments will have a point value that reflects the relative grading weight. The following rank order will be used each marking period: READ180 and class participation, papers, small group assignments, projects/presentations, and journal entries. All work is expected to be handed in on time. If a student is absent any long-term projects, papers, or tests are due on the first day of the student's return. Exceptions are to be discussed with the instructor before the assignment is due. All work is expected to be the student's own and plagiarism or cheating of any kind will result in a zero grade.

## **Classroom Expectations and Grading Criteria**

**Given the importance of active student participation, failure to participate will result in immediate removal from the class and repeated problems in this area will result in the student being placed in another class or forfeiting the credit.**

The grades will be calculated according to the GHAPS Language Arts grading scale:

A	=	93 – 100	C	=	73 – 77
A-	=	90 – 92	C-	=	70 – 72
B+	=	88 - 89	D+	=	68 – 69
B	=	83 – 87	D	=	63 – 67
B-	=	80 – 82	D-	=	60 – 62
C+	=	78 - 79	F	=	Below 60

### **Daily Homework**

Students who actively and productively work during class may not have many outside homework assignments. The workshop format of this class allows students to take the time they need to finish all assignments.

### **Classroom Participation**

Attendance is important in order that students achieve the greatest gain in reading skill. Class participation and group work are essential and will receive the greatest weight in determining the student's grade for the marking period.

### **Quizzes**

While this class does not feature quizzes, the work done on the computer program READ 180 is counted as a quiz. Because students work at their level in this program, the skills drilled are individualized as to what each student needs to work on and should show student success over those skills.

### **Tests**

The majority of tests given are those that measure each student's reading level. These assessments score the grade level, skill attainment and deficit individually, while pointing at further instructional needs. Test grades only influence a student marking period grade at the end of each trimester if there is a lack of effort in trying to do one's best.

### **Grade Slips/Progress Reports**

Progress reports are sent home with students upon request. Grades are mailed to the home address at the midterm and end of trimester.

### **Tardiness**

Refer to school policy in handbook

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**Parent's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_