

7/8 Grade Reading & Writing

(Average 7th and 8th graders, often ages 12-13)

Skills Needed to Succeed:

- Able to read more complex novels with challenging vocabulary and slightly mature content
- Has become comfortable with annotating the novel and charting literary content
- Has a degree of mastery writing an expanded paragraph (understands how to write “chunks”)
- Ready to transition to multi-paragraph essay writing
- Familiar with literary analysis writing, including weaving quotes from novel into composition
- Shows evidence of time management skills
- Able to complete 3 to 4 hours of homework weekly

NOTE: Writing Foundations 1&2 are prerequisites for this class for all new students.

Skills Learned:

- Continuing to practice TWJ writing steps and strategies: brainstorm, outline, rough draft, final draft
- Developing multi-paragraph essays by developing three body paragraphs
- Mastering a thesis and transitional sentences
- Providing specific examples from the novel to support assertions
- Explaining examples with insightful commentary, including being introduced to writing “chunks” using concrete details and commentary sentences
- Improving sentence structure through mastery of stylistic elements

Other Details:

- Class meets for 2 hours weekly
- Class lasts for 12 weeks
- Students will be assigned and expected to complete 3 to 4 hours of homework weekly
- Maximum class size- 15 students