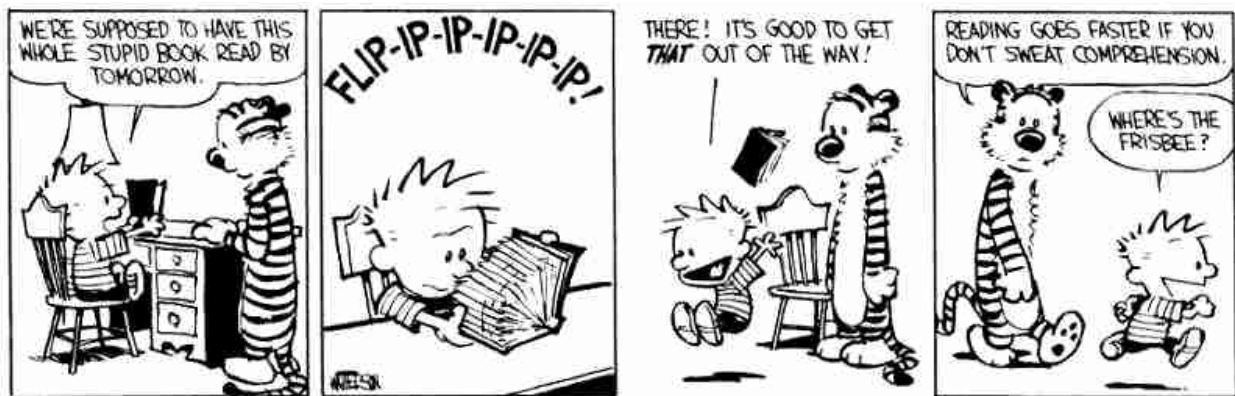


Mr. Mazzuca's Literacy

Learning to read between the lines



“Read, read, read. Read everything -- trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You'll absorb it. Then write. If it's good, you'll find out. If it's not, throw it out of the window.”

— William Faulkner

“You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book.”

— Dr. Seuss

WHAT IS THIS CLASS ALL ABOUT?

Welcome to the world of literacy! We are going to have a wonderful year! My hope is that each student leaves my class feeling inspired and confident in his/her ability to decode and understand the written word well. This class will focus primarily on the common core curriculum standards for reading and language. We are going to explore the idea of decoding a story, both written and performed. We're going to be looking at the "why" behind the writing and what message is trying to be shared.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATION

Because this class will rely a lot on sharing ideas, which can be uncomfortable sometimes, this classroom is a **safe** environment where every person is treated with **respect**. I do not tolerate disrespect or bullying of any kind!

WHAT WILL WE READ?

While in this literacy class, we will explore comprehension through reading and discussion of short stories, poetry, classic novels, current events, all while supporting the LA curriculum in some cases.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- 1 Folder with pockets
- #2 Pencils and pens (black or blue), correcting pens (any color) and a highlighter (any color)

I will do my best to let you know, via a sign on my classroom door, what materials you will need each day.

For the record, the following materials will be known as "The Usual Suspects":

- Writing utensils (pencils and pens, as listed above)
- Folder
- Internet access — for the majority of our assignments, we will be utilizing Google Classroom and GoogleDocs. Please make sure you contact me with any internet issues you encounter so an action plan can be put into place to complete assignments without being penalized for being late.

ABSENCE PROCEDURES

Because a lot of your success in literacy will be determined by your participation, missing class is not recommended. If you are absent, it is *YOUR* responsibility to retrieve missed notes and handouts.

Use my website and Google Classroom to view announcements and homework (this can be accessed through the district website).

You have the number of days missed plus one day to make up homework and class assignments.

Quizzes and tests will be made up within two days of returning.

TARDY PROCEDURE

I will close the door to the classroom when class is beginning. If you enter after the door has closed, you are tardy. Every fourth tardy without a pass will result in a detention.

LTR (Leaving the Room) PROCEDURE

Each student will need to inform me if he or she needs to leave the room for any reason. This is for *YOUR* own safety! I must know where students are at all times in case of an emergency. Leaving the room to go to the nurse and/or bathroom is okay unless it becomes a habit each day you are in my class.

If you need to miss class for a lesson, group or any other reason, you need to report to me first before heading to your other destination.

LATE / MISSING WORK

I am aware that we all have varying levels of reading. That is not an excuse to decide to skip any assignment. I ask that EVERYONE at least ATTEMPT reading any assigned work and bring AT LEAST ONE talking point to class the following day.

Homework assignments that we review in class will not be accepted as late work because the answers have been discussed. You will receive a zero for that assignment (if you are absent, you will turn in the assignment when you return to school).

Other homework assignments and projects MUST be completed.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in my classroom. If a student is being dishonest, he/she will receive a zero for his/her work on that assignment, quiz, or test. That student will also make a call to his/her parent/guardian and explain what happened. While I encourage you to ask a friend for help, copying someone else's work is unacceptable, whether you know that person or not.

Please refer to your assignment notebook for information about academic dishonesty.

WORK THAT IS BELOW EXPECTATIONS

You need to be your own advocate! If you receive a grade that does not meet my expectations or is below your own expectations you will need to meet with me to review and to improve the assignment. My goal is to help you learn and succeed, but you need to put forth the effort. You will need to:

1) Come in and meet with me

Then

2) Re-do the assignment

I encourage my students to take responsibility and advocate for themselves. Students who have questions or need explanation about an assignment should come to me themselves.

CONTACT INFORMATION

I will do my best to be available to my students whenever needed and if I am not readily available, I will schedule a time with the student to meet and discuss what the need is at the time.

I can be reached the following ways:

- In person in room 131
- By email - [**mazzucaj@hawthorn73.org**](mailto:mazzucaj@hawthorn73.org)
- By phone - (847) 990-4493