



Canyon Springs Stem Academy

Principal: Jaime Aldred

Assistant Principal: Quinn Talley

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! Our seventh graders have a year of wonderful learning ahead of them. We will be using many resources throughout the year to expand our understanding of literature, grammar, and critical thinking.

In addition to readings from the DVUSD approved curriculum, HMH Collections as well as the NoRedInk software for writing and grammar support, we will be conducting novel studies. The novels selected have all been approved by the district as appropriate for seventh graders, both with regard to level of difficulty and their content. Students are encouraged to obtain their own copies of these novels, to allow for in-text citations. If you prefer to not buy the novels, that is okay too, it will be provided for them.

Quarter 1: This unit's focus is on the key elements of reading and analyzing literature and understanding the narrative style in writing.

Novel: [Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#) (Lewis Carroll, 1865)

Movie: [Alice in Wonderland PG \(Disney\)](#)

Novel for Advanced ELA Class Only: [The Hobbit](#) (J.R.R. Tolkien, 1937)

Movie: [The Hobbit PG-13](#)

Quarter 2: This unit's focus is on the key elements of reading and analyzing informative/non-fiction texts and understanding the informative style in writing.

Novel: [Chasing Lincoln's Killer](#) (James L. Swanson, 2009)

Movie: [Killing Lincoln PG \(National Geographic\)](#)

Novel for Advanced ELA Class Only: This is an independent novel study

Quarter 3: The unit's focus is a mix of informative and argumentative texts and writing.

Novel for both Advanced ELA and GenEd ELA: [The Boy in the Striped Pajamas](#) (John Boyne, 2006) *The work for this novel will be more complex for Advanced ELA

Movie: [The Boy in the Striped Pajamas PG-13](#)



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Should the need to change any of these selections arise, an additional letter will be sent out prior to the novel study beginning. I look forward to being in touch with you throughout the year as we work together to help our seventh graders succeed!

Sincerely,

Grace N. Christiansen

PLEASE SIGN BELOW AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO CLASS BY: 8/18/23

By signing below you are agreeing to the following:

I have read and understand all of the guidelines set forth in the novel list for these classes. I consent to allowing my child to read the books outlined and if I have an issue with any of the above listed titles in **text or film version**, I will make arrangements with the teacher for an alternative assignment PRIOR to the start of that unit of study.

Name of Student _____

ELA Teacher _____

Name of Parent/Guardian (printed)

Date _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date _____