

## How are Junior High English Grades Computed?

### *Components of the Quarter Grade*

Grades are computed at the end of the quarter by using a cumulative average of the percentages achieved in four areas of individual student performance in English class. A fifth area of study determines if the student will receive the cumulative average or drop the cumulative average one grade level. These five areas of focus are as follows:

- 1) **Grammar**—Meeting the class goal according to the weekly grammar expectation.
- 2) **Composition**—Meeting the class goal according to the check sheet expectations and teacher discretion of these expectations.
- 3) **Literature (Study Guide)**—Weekly reading and orally answering questions based on the reading material.
- 4) **Literature (Study Guide) Final Exam**—At the end of each quarter, a test is taken and a percentage grade is given based on student academic performance on that test.
- 5) **Book Report (“A” book)**—Meeting the rough and final draft deadlines as well as passing a comprehension quiz on a required book.

### **Grammar:**

- Several lessons are due each week of the quarter. The “grammar number” will be posted each Monday so that students can know their goal for the day. At the end of the quarter, these lessons are totaled and the appropriate grade is awarded based on a percentage of finished lessons.
- Each student has until the end of the day on Thursday to catch up on weekly grammar lessons that are posted. If by the end of Thursday the grammar number is not met, the lessons not completed will be deducted from the final grade at the end of the quarter but the student still must complete the work.
- The total of the grammar lessons completed out of the total of grammar lessons required to complete is the percentage total of the grammar grade ( $18/18 = 100\%$ ,  $17/18 = 94\%$ , etc...).

### **Composition:**

- Each composition will be completed in steps.
- The first section of composition consists of a prewriting section where each student is to create an outline and thesis statement.
- The second section of composition consists of using the outline to form paragraphs and complete the essay.
- Everyone has the opportunity to earn a perfect score if he or she does his or her personal best and follows the suggestions given by the teacher. Points are deducted if students do not meet their writing requirement for the day, demonstrate sloppy or careless work, talk and distract others, come to class unorganized or unprepared, etc...

### **Literature (Study Guide):**

The literature grade consists of a weekly book discussion conducted as a teacher-directed literature circle. Each week's discussion is worth 4 points totaling 32 points for the quarter. The expectations are as follows:

- 4= all work, including literary terms, is detailed and complete in cursive, student has book and is prepared to fully discuss each question
- 3= one question is incomplete or vague or literary terms are not completed or student did not bring book to group
- 2= two or more questions are vague or incomplete
- 1= the lesson is incomplete
- 0=N/C (not complete) or A/B (absent) turned in after Thursday deadline

If a student earns an N/C or if a student is absent, the student has until the following Thursday in which to turn in the work. Assignments that are not turned in by the following Thursday after school will earn a "0", but the student still must complete the work.

### **Literature (Study Guide) Final Exam:**

- There are two sections to the final exam: literary terms and narrative comprehension.
- Each student is to write the definition of each literary term, found within each study guide in italic print and with its own definition. Students are to study the terms and on the test match the terms to their definitions.
- The narrative comprehensional section tests each student's knowledge of the plot, climax, theme, etc... discussed in the Study Guide and in the Study Guide group.

### **Book Report ("A" book):**

- Students must read an additional book and meet the deadlines for each quarter.
- Students must read the book, write a book report, and pass a comprehension quiz.
- The first deadline that must be met is the rough draft deadline. Students may receive one of two comments: Redo or Move to Final.
- REDO: In order for a student to write a final draft, he or she will have to turn in a rough draft that is an "A" based on each student's own academic performance. The day before the final draft is due is the last day to move to final and redo the book report draft. Each redo is to be stapled to the original rough draft.
- MOVE TO FINAL: Once a student has achieved his or her own "A," it is up to him or her to turn in the final draft stapled to the remaining rough drafts by the final draft deadline.
- The final component of the book report is for a student to pass a comprehensional book quiz. Each quiz may be taken twice, and only one book quiz may be taken per day. If a student does not pass the book quiz on the first try, he or she may ask the teacher for additional tutoring and take the test a second time.
- If the student does not complete each of these steps, his or her overall English grade is lowered one grade.

The final **Quarter Grade** the student receives is an average of the four discussed categories above and whether or not the Book Report has been successfully completed. This is expressed granularly as a letter grade as follows:

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100-90%       | <b>A</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 89-80%        | <b>B</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 79-70%        | <b>C</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 69-60%        | <b>D</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 59% and below | <b>F</b> |

*Semester Grades* are the numeric average of the two quarter grades.