

**Reading-Grade 8**  
**Bow Memorial School**  
**Mrs. Begley/Mrs. Obolewicz**  
**2015-2016**

We hope you share the excitement of all of our staff as we return to classes at Bow Memorial School. We look forward to sharing our love for reading with you.

The intent of our Grade 8 Reading Class will be to continue the movement of "Best Practices in Adolescent Literacy". This class will deal with word analysis, vocabulary development, reading comprehension and critical thinking as well as writing. Comprehension strategies will vary according to the type of literature or content subject you are reading. Strategies to help you decide how to approach different types of material will be explored.

Writing is "your thinking on paper" and you will hear us say this repeatedly all year. You will keep a journal in class to practice the mechanics and forms of writing by reacting to what you read.

We will read novels, short stories, newspapers and technical articles. Note taking and outlining techniques are a critical part of this process. We will practice taking different kinds of tests on this material to see how best to organize notes for understanding and recall. With the amount of time spent on the Internet and the need to be adept in the technology of the computer age, classes will include some instruction in this area. Finally, we hope you will develop a love of reading for pleasure as you find the process less daunting. "Curling up with a good book" is a wonderful way to relax and let your imagination take you on a journey to places of wonder, mystery and discovery. We look forward to meeting and working with you for the new school year.

**Formative and Summative Assessments:**

**Test/Quizzes:** You will have a test/quiz or journal grade at least once a week. I usually vary the type of assessment to provide practice taking different style exams. Advance notices for tests or quizzes are given and usually cover class work vocabulary or the particular reading genre we are studying in class.

**Projects:** Projects assigned may be completed during class time or independently. typical project will usually involve literature circle work, a book study or ICT computer project. A schedule or timetable for the project will be provided to ensure timely completion.

**Reading Books:** Just like in sports, you only become a better reader when you practice the skill. Students are expected to carry an independent reading book of a on a regular basis starting in September. Each fiction/nonfiction book will require a reading log or report of some sort. Models will be provided as the year progresses.

**Grading:** Rubrics and a point system is used based on the complexity of the assignment.

1. Homework/Test/Quiz/Journal Writing/Notebook Organization and Projects are graded on a timely basis and entered into the Infinite Campus Portal.
2. Class participation, cooperative group work, preparedness and task focus will also be observed and be part of the class grade. Can you collaborate and communicate with your classmates and be productive and complete assignments?

**Absence:** Please plan to meet with us for absences greater than two days to determine deadlines for work completion. This is your responsibility to schedule.

**Homework Assignments:** All assignments have due dates. The teacher/s reserve the right to change dates based on absences, scheduling, and unforeseen circumstances.

**Materials for Reading Class: Due Wednesday, Sept 2, 2015**

- \* 1 ½ " binder with three ring paper (please assemble at home)
- \* Six (6) binder dividers (word study; vocabulary; reading strategies; reading comprehension, writing, homework)
- \* 8 1/2 x 11 writing journal
- \* stickie notes (multi-color)
- \* highlighters (five colors)
- \* red, blue and black pens
- \* pencils
- \* paper reinforcers (the little rings for paper in the notebook)
- \* Metal rings for compiling notecards
- \* Index cards (multi-color)
- \* Pocket dictionary/thesaurus

**Please have your notebook assembled before you come to class and keep extra items in your locker. Always carry pens, pencils, highlighters and sticky notes. They will assist you in developing your independent reading strategies.**

**Common Core Anchor Standards for Reading and Writing:** ([www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/)) The Bow School District is now following the tenets of the Common Core Standards. Please reference the website for more details descriptions of the standards.

**College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading**

**Key Ideas and Details**

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

**Craft and Structure**

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
  5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
  6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas**
7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.\*
  8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
  9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

**Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity**

10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

Let's have a great year!.....Mrs. Begley and Mrs. Obolewicz

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Grade 8 Reading: Thank you for reading the Grade 8 Reading Class Overview. All materials are due in class on Wednesday, September 2. Please sign, clip and return the bottom sign-slip to class no later than Friday, September 4. Worth 10 points in the gradebook.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_