**Sharpstown High School**

2013-2014 English I & Reading I

**with Mrs. Crandall**

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| Contact Me! | | |
| **Teacher:** Mrs. Jessie (Weber) Crandall | | **Room:** 214 |
| **Email:** jweber1@houstonisd.org | **Cell:** (832) 651-8829 | **Class Site:** [www.edmodo.com/jcrandall](http://www.edmodo.com/jcrandall) |

*It’s like a classroom Facebook! Mrs. C will update it all the time, so check it frequently.*

*Texting is okay but don’t forget to tell me who it is!*

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| Mrs. Crandall’s Mission Statement:   * My students WILL be become thinkers, readers, and writers. * They WILL become proficient and contributing members of the Sharpstown student body. * They WILL learn what it means to be better citizens for their campus and community. * I WILL NOT allow students to opt out of learning, and students WILL reach their highest potential. |

What will we be doing during the school year?

During the school year, students will read, discuss, and interact with literature from various genres and time periods. By analyzing, discussing and writing about novels, short stories, poetry, plays and essays, students will practice using the reading and writing processes. As a result, they will become better at understanding and responding to a variety of texts.

Students will become better writers as they write for varied audiences and purposes and work to develop ideas, voice, word choice, fluency, and organization in their writing. Students will apply conventions of the English language to enhance their work.

Students will become better readers as they learn to read critically, evaluate sources, and draw supportable conclusions. They will learn how various texts are organized and how authors choose language for effects. By regularly engaging in sustained reading, students will also develop their reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills.

*Pretty cool stuff!*

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| By the end of the year, you will be able to….   * Read with an emphasis on synthesis, analysis, interpretation, and evaluation. * Make meaning of literature from the following vantage points: author’s style and purpose, major themes, literary and/or historical periods, and personal experiences. * Write with adherence to Standard English conventions; write with focus, support, clarity and integration in the form of expository (informative) and literary (narrative) pieces. * Listen and speak effectively in a variety of situations including formal and informal oral presentations. * Utilize technology to enhance understanding and improve computer literacy skills. * Achieve mastery on the Texas English I STAAR test. |

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| Literature List | |
| **Cycle 1:**   * “Attention Shoppers” by Michele Serros: Short Story * “Fan Club” by Rona Maynard : Short Story * “Jared” by Davif Gifaldi : Short Story   **Cycle 2:**   * “Standing Up” by from NBC Dateline : Non Fiction * Other expository texts TBD   **Cycle 3:**   * *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi : Autobiographical Graphic Novel * *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton : Novel | **Cycle 4:**   * *Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins : Novel   **Cycle 5:**   * *Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka : Novella   **Cycle 6:**   * *Devil’s Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen : Historical Fiction Novel   *Reading can*  *be fun!* |

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| ***Invictus***  by William Ernest Henley  Out of the night that covers me, Black as the pit from pole to pole, I thank whatever gods may be For my unconquerable soul.  In the fell clutch of circumstance I have not winced nor cried aloud. Under the bludgeonings of chance My head is bloody, but unbowed.  Beyond this place of wrath and tears Looms but the Horror of the shade, And yet the menace of the years Finds and shall find me unafraid.  It matters not how strait the gate, How charged with punishments the scroll, I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul. |  | Class Culture  The culture of our classrooms will be one of respect, learning, and personal responsibility. Each class period will learn to work together and be accountable for one another. After all, one is only as strong as the team. To reinforce this idea, students will work in collaborative groups on a regular basis, and students will be held accountable for their individual behavior and the behavior of their group.  This year, our class will use the *Invictus* poem as a guiding principle. Regardless of the hardships my students face, they will and can master their fates. |

ELA I (2 Period) Block Schedule Breakdown

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| *Time* | *Activity* |
| 28 minutes | Sustained Silent Reading (including vocabulary & Interactive Connections Reading Log) |
| 25 minutes | Grammar / Literary Elements Mini Lesson |
| 5 minutes | Passing Period Break |
| 50 minutes | Core Lesson (based on our literature list) |
| 3 minute | Closure |

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| Class Incentives | | |
| **Class Pizza Party** | | |
|  | ***Who?*** | The class with the highest grade average and fewest number of zeros |
| ***When?*** | At the end of every 6-week cycle |
| ***What?*** | Lunch time pizza party |
| ***Eligibility?*** | To participate in the pizza party, students must have at least a 75 grade average for the cycle and have no zeros. |
| ***Why?*** | To focus on “zapping the zeros.” Students should not only strive to pass a class, but they should also hold themselves accountable for every assignment. |

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| **Daily Reward Tickets** | | |
|  | ***Who?*** | Every student |
| ***When?*** | Every day |
| ***What?*** | Students will receive tickets when they live the Apollo Creed though actions that display personal responsibility and personal bests. Tickets can be awarded for exemplary behavior, participation, effort and attitude. (Actions which demonstrate mastering one’s fate.) Tickets can be redeemed for snacks, a homework pass, or a “zap the zero” pass. |

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| **Student of the Month Club** | | |
|  | ***Who?*** | Top 3 Students from each month (The top 3 will be chosen based of grades, personal growth, attitude, and effort.) |
| ***When?*** | At the end of each month |
| ***What?*** | Students will be posted on the Student of the Month board and will be eligible for the Masters’ Dinner. |

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| **Masters’ Dinner Party** | | |
|  | ***Who?*** | Top 3 Students Every Cycle (The top 3 will be chosen based of grades, personal growth, attitude, and effort.) |
| ***When?*** | At the end of each 6-week cycle |
| ***What?*** | Mrs. Crandall’s Top 3 will join 3 students from every other English class and will be taken out for a nice dinner. |

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| Grading |

**Grading Scale**

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| A = 90-100 | B = 80-89 | C = 75-79 | D = 70-74 | F = 69 and Below |

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| **6-Week Grade Weights** |  | **Semester Grade Weights** | | |
| Major Grades (Tests, Projects, Major Essays) | 40% |  | Cycle 1 | 25% |
| Classwork (In Class Assignments, Participation & Attendance) | 30% |  | Cycle 2 | 25% |
| Quizzes | 25% |  | Cycle 3 | 25% |
| Homework | 5% |  | Final Exam | 25% |

**Late Work:**

For each day an assignment is late, 10% (or one letter grade) of the assignment will be subtracted.

Late work will not be accepted after 7 days.

**Make up Work:**

If you are absent, you *MUST* complete all assignments from the day you were absent. However, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU MISSED. You MUST come to tutorials to make up assignments and ask questions. Make up work will NOT be dealt with during regular class time. Once back at school, students have 3 days to complete missing assignments.

**Extra Credit:**

Students will have the option to turn in extra credit assignments to help his/her grade. Students can request extra credit assignments at any time by coming to tutorials.

**Other Grading Considerations:**

No Name: -5pts Unpresentable (crumbled) Assignments: -10pts

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| Other Important Class Policies | |
| **Attendance:**  I expect students to make attendance a priority. If you are not present, you miss out on valuable learning opportunities and end up struggling to catch-up. The simplest solution: attend class EVERY DAY. | **Bathroom Policy:**  Each student will be afforded three bathroom passes for the semester. Keeping up with the bathroom passes will be the student’s responsibility: if lost or used up, bathroom privileges will be revoked. Students may earn additional bathroom passes through the ticket system. Students are expect to use the bathroom before class, after class, or during the 5 minute block break. |
| **Tardy Policy:**  Students who are not in class by the tardy bell must go to Room 228 (Dean Downs’ office) to receive a tardy pass. Unexcused tardies will result in -5 Points from a student’s weekly Creed grade. | **Cell Phones & Electronics:**  Students are not allowed to use cell phones or electronic devices while on campus. For this reason, a strict “OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF HEARING” policy has been created to protect the sanctity of your educational opportunity. There will be no warnings. If I see or hear a phone I will collect it. The first time, I will keep the phone until the end of the day. After the first time a phone is collected, it will be given to the students’ dean. |

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| Materials Needed Every Day:  *(All were given out on the 2nd day of school!)*  Backpack  3 Ringed Binder  ELA Divider  Lined Paper  ELA Notebook  Pens, Pencil, Highlighter |

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| Technology for the Classroom |

**PSConnect :**

Parents and students can check a student’s progress anytime through PSConnect. At a minimum, grades will be updated each week, so that a student has time to bring up low grades.

**EdModo:**

Most SHS teachers will be using EdModo to support their classes. EdModo is like Facebook for the classroom. Mrs. Crandall will regularly post alerts, reminders, and discussions on EdModo. Students are responsible for creating an EdModo account and joining “Mrs. Crandall’s English I” group (which can be found at [www.edmodo.com/jcrandall](http://www.edmodo.com/jcrandall)).

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| Honor Code/Plagiarism Policy  Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Students will receive a zero for any assignment that violates the honor code.  According to the Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition, “Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else’s ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased. It includes, but is not limited to the following:   1. copying verbatim all or part of another’s written work; 2. using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source; 3. paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source; 4. using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.” |

Mrs. Crandall’s Overall Expectations

Be a **CARING, RESPONSIBLE, WELL MANNERED, DISCIPLINED, RESPECTFUL** human being.

**Master YOUR fate!**

**Sharpstown High School**

2013-2014 English I & Reading I

**with Mrs. Crandall**

Teacher: Mrs. Jessie (Weber) Crandall Phone: (832)651-8829 E-mail: jweber1@gmail.com

Welcome to this new and exciting year at Sharpstown High School! Please sign and date below to show that you have read through the English I & Reading I Course Description.

**AS THE CLASSROOM TEACHER, I AGREE TO DO THE FOLLOWING:**

* Treat all my students with courtesy and respect.
* Make myself available for extra help when needed.
* Return all parent or guardian phone calls or e-mail within 24 hours.
* Assess and return class work in a timely manner.

Signature of Teacher \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AS A STUDENT IN THIS CLASS, I AGREE TO DO THE FOLLOWING:**

* Bring all needed reading materials, a pen and paper, homework or other assignments, as well as a good attitude about my classmates, English and learning.
* Attend class regularly and on time.
* Complete assignments. If an assignment is not completed by the due date, I understand that the assignment will be marked down a full letter grade for each day late. I understand that assignments will not be accepted if they are more than seven days late.
* Be courteous and respectful towards my classmates and teacher.
* Understand that if I am absent, it is my responsibility to make up missed work.
* Complete my own work; cheating will not be tolerated. I understand that plagiarism will result in an automatic failure for the assignment plus a phone call home.
* Follow all the school non-negotiables, such as wearing an ID, not wearing a head covering, keeping all electronic devices off and out of sight, not eating or drinking in class, keeping the classroom environment clean, etc.

Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AS THE PARENT/GUARDIAN, I AGREE TO DO THE FOLLOWING:**

* Do what I can to ensure that my child attends class regularly and on time.
* Encourage my child to develop good study habits.
* Stay informed as to what my child is learning and the progress he or she is making.
* Call or email my Mrs. Crandall with any questions or concerns.

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ home cell work (circle one)

Guardian Email (if you have one):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **RETURN THIS PAGE BACK TO MRS. CRANDALL! It’s a grade!** |