



English 8  
Mr. Gillis, Room 229  
2014 - 2015



**W**elcome back to another year at American Fork Junior. In this class we will be focusing on not only preparing you for your high school experience, but also helping you see and harness the **power of words**.

### Texts

To help us understand the power of words, we will be examining the texts from the list below.

- *Selected Short Stories*
- *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*
- *The Diary of Anne Frank: Play*
- *Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science*
- *Ender's Game*
- *Ender's Game: Film*

### Rules/Expectations

All the rules in my class fall under two categories:

1. Be respectful (of yourself, the teacher, your classmates, and the classroom)
2. Take responsibility for your actions.

### Supplies

You will need the following supplies every day:

- Book for SSR - Picture books do not count ☺
- Journal to keep in class (70 sheets)
- Writing utensils (pencils or pens)
- A folder to store papers from class
- Loose-leaf paper for assignments.

### Grades

All class work will be graded as follows:

A 100 - 93%	C 76 - 73%
A- 92 - 90%	C- 72 - 70%
B+ 89 - 87%	D 68 - 63%
B 86 - 83%	D- 62 - 60%
B- 82 - 80%	F 59% & Below
C+ 79 - 77%	

Final grades will be broken into the following categories:

- |                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. <b>Assignments and Quizzes:</b> | <b>20%</b> |
| 2. <b>Reading:</b>                 | <b>20%</b> |
| 3. <b>Writing &amp; Projects:</b>  | <b>30%</b> |
| 4. <b>Tests:</b>                   | <b>30%</b> |

### 1. Writing & Projects: 30%

Effective writing leads to effective communication and is therefore, one of the main focuses of this class. We will focus on finding the writer inside each student and then teaching that writer how to express, not only thoughts and feelings, but also researched material.

### 2. Test: 30%

Because tests are a cumulative assessment of what you have learned in class, I believe that they should be worth a high percentage on the grade scale.

### 2. Assignments/Quizzes: 20%

This category will cover journals, grammar, vocabulary, and small assignments such as disclosure documents, practice assignments, and fluency activities.

### 3. Reading: 20%

You will be required to read one book every month that is at least 150 pages long. You will have a tracking sheet that will be due at the end of the month or as soon as you finish the book you are reading, whichever comes first. Unless cleared with me, picture books, Diary of a Wimpy Kid (and like books), and textbooks for classes you are taking this year will not complete the requirements for this grading section. All exceptions must be cleared with the teacher.

In- class reading will also be part of your grade in this class. **If you are absent, you will need to make up your reading points** with the teacher either before or after school, during Cave Time, or through a home reading log that must be signed by your parent or guardian.

### How do I keep track of my grades?

You can see your grades online. Simply go to the district website ([alpineschools.org](http://alpineschools.org)) and click **Skyward Login**. Your username and password will be given to you, so please write them somewhere you won't forget. **Administrators strongly encourage you to set your email preferences in Skyward so your parents can view your weekly progress.**

Please detach, sign, and return to your teacher.

Gillis, English 8: Due in \_\_\_\_\_ (Period) on \_\_\_\_\_ (Due date).

By signing this, I acknowledge that I have read the above document and accept and support its policies in full.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian email address 1 (Required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian email address 2 (Optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (PLEASE PRINT)

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## No Name Work

In this class you will be expected to turn work in on time and put your name on all assignments. Work turned in with no name on it is a nuisance and will be penalized **10% credit** once claimed.

## Late Work & Makeup Work

All work is due on the due date. Due dates will be told to you verbally, usually written on the board (if the due date is in the distant future), and posted online through Skyward or the class website.

Work not turned in on its due date loses 10% credit for every day it is late up to 50%.

There are exceptions:

- If you were in class for the assignment, but absent on the due date, it is due the next time you are in class. (Please write ABSENT and the date you turn it in on the top of your assignment)
- If you were absent the day the assignment was given, you have five days from your return to school to pick up the assignment, finish it, and turn it in for full credit. (Again, write ABSENT and the date you turn it in on the top of your assignment.)
- Students missing class for school-related activities still need to make up any missed assignments. If you will be missing school for an extended period of time, please notify the teacher as soon as possible.
- All assignments given in class, worked on in class, and graded in class will be late if you choose to not participate, do not have it done on time, or do not turn it in when due unless otherwise directed by the teacher.
- All late work, regardless if it is absence or otherwise related, goes in the Late Work basket for your class.

### **Do not put late work in the on-time/graded baskets.**

-Excuses are simply that, excuses. You have Cave Time, before and after school, and in-between classes to come talk to me about missing work. It is your responsibility to come see me. If you missed reading of the in-class novel, I will not send home reading books, you will be expected to come in during Cave Time or before or after school to make it up.

- **In the case of extenuating circumstances, extensions and exceptions can be made.**
- **No late work, makeup work, or extra credit will be accepted the last week of each term.**

## Test/Quiz Retakes

You may retake tests and quizzes. It must be done either before or after school or during Cave Time; please arrange the time with me before you retake them. The higher score will go on your final grade.

## Cheating

**Assignments, tests, and quizzes that are cheated on will receive an F grade and cannot be made up!**

**Writing in answers while work is being graded in class is considered cheating and will be given a zero grade for doing so.**

ALL WORK, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, CANNOT BE REDONE ONCE IT IS TURNED IN. Therefore, you should take your time and follow directions the first time.

\*\*\*\*\*FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS\*\*\*\*\*

### **Email**

My email address is [dgillis@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:dgillis@alpinedistrict.org). Email is the best way to reach me, and it is also the way I will let you know about what we are doing in class. Please write any email addresses you currently use on the form turned in so that I can contact you.

### **Website**

My class website is [gillisafj.weebly.com](http://gillisafj.weebly.com) I post links to most of the assignments as well as a class calendar on this site.

