

COURSE: GRADE 7 ENGLISH
TEACHER: J. Federici

OBJECTIVES

- (i) To increase the student's comprehension of a variety of literary genres
- (ii) To improve the student's writing skills in terms of critical thinking, organization, sentence structure, and grammar (in-class and homework)
- (iii) To provide practice for students to develop their critical writing (in-class and homework) and analysis of fiction.

SECOND TERM GRADING

Tests (2)	20%
Spelling / Grammar Quizzes (4)	20%
Homework (weekly)	40%
Preparation, Participation, Class Work	20%
TOTAL	<hr/> 100%

TIME FRAME

Saturday January 2 – Saturday June 18

2:30 - 4:30 PM (25 x 2 hr classes)

COURSE TEXTS

(January 2)	Short Story: "The Ransom of Red Chief" by O. Henry
(January 9)	Novel: <i>Bud, Not Buddy</i> by Christopher Paul Curtis
(February 5)	Historical Fiction: <i>Under the Blood Red Sun</i> by Graham Salisbury
(March 12)	Biography: <i>Tuesdays With Morrie</i> by Mitch Albom
(April 9)	Science Fiction: <i>The House of the Scorpion</i> by Nancy Farmer
(May 21)	Novella: <i>The Red Pony</i> by John Steinbeck

STUDY AIDS

A complete set of photocopies and texts of the assigned readings
Paper and a pen or pencil for note-taking
A college level dictionary

****Please note that students are responsible for all course work**

Please Note: All dates are subject to change

WEEK 1 - January 2, 2016

- The Ransom of Red Chief
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 2 - January 9, 2016

- Bud, Not Buddy: Chapters 1-4
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 3 - January 16, 2016

- Bud, Not Buddy: Chapters 5-12
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 4 - January 23, 2016

- Bud, Not Buddy: Chapters 13-16
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 5 - January 30, 2016

- Bud, Not Buddy: Chapters 17-19
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 6 - February 6, 2016

- Under the Blood Red Sun: Chapters 1-4
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar
- Spelling/Vocabulary Quiz #1: Bud, Not Buddy

WEEK 7 - February 13, 2016

- Under the Blood Red Sun: Chapters 5-8
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 8 - February 20, 2016

- Under the Blood Red Sun: Chapters 9-15
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 9 - February 27, 2016

- Under the Blood Red Sun: Chapters 16-19
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 10 - March 5, 2016

- Under the Blood Red Sun: Chapters 20-Epilogue
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 11 - March 12, 2016

- Tuesdays With Morrie: The Curriculum-Taking Attendance
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar
- Spelling/Vocabulary Quiz #2: Under the Blood Red Sun

WEEK 12 - March 19, 2016

- Tuesdays With Morrie: The First Tuesday-The Sixth Tuesday
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 13 - March 26, 2016

- Tuesdays With Morrie: The Professor, Part Two-The Eleventh Tuesday
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 14 - April 2, 2016

- Tuesdays With Morrie: The Audiovisual, Part Three-Conclusion
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar
- Midterm Test

WEEK 15 - April 9, 2016

- The House of the Scorpion: Chapters 1-5
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 16 - April 16, 2016

- The House of the Scorpion: Chapters 6-10
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar
- Spelling/Vocabulary Quiz #3: Tuesdays With Morrie

WEEK 17 - April 23, 2016

- The House of the Scorpion: Chapters 11-18
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 18 - April 30, 2016

- The House of the Scorpion: Chapters 19-25
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 19 - May 7, 2016

- The House of the Scorpion: Chapters 26-31
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 20 - May 14, 2016

- The House of the Scorpion: Chapters 32-38
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 21 - May 21, 2016

- The Red Pony: Part 1 - The Gift
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar
- Spelling/Vocabulary Quiz #4: The House of the Scorpion

WEEK 22 - May 28, 2016

- The Red Pony: Part 2- The Great Mountains
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 23 - June 4, 2016

- The Red Pony: Part 3 - The Promise
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 24 - June 11, 2016

- The Red Pony: Part 4 - The Leader of the People
- Writing, Spelling and Grammar

WEEK 25 - June 18, 2016

- Final Test

***ALL HOMEWORK AND ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE
THE FOLLOWING CLASS***

Novel: *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis

Guided only by a flier for one of Calloway's shows--a small, blue poster that had mysteriously upset his mother shortly before she died--Bud sets off to track down his supposed dad, a man he's never laid eyes on. And, being 10, Bud-not-Buddy gets into all sorts of trouble along the way, barely escaping a monster-infested woodshed, stealing a vampire's car, and even getting tricked into "busting slob with a real live girl." Christopher Paul Curtis exhibits his skill for capturing the language and feel of an era and creates an authentic, touching, often hilarious voice in little Bud.

Historical Fiction: *Under the Blood Red Sun* by Graham Salisbury

Tomi was born in Hawaii. His grandfather and parents were born in Japan, and came to America to escape poverty.

World War II seems far away from Tomi and his friends, who are too busy playing ball on their eighth-grade team, the Rats.

But then Pearl Harbor is attacked by the Japanese, and the United States declares war on Japan. Japanese men are rounded up, and Tomi's father and grandfather are arrested. It's a terrifying time to be Japanese in America. But one thing doesn't change: the loyalty of Tomi's buddies, the Rats.

Biography: *Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom

We meet Morrie Schwartz--a one of a kind professor, whom the author describes as looking like a cross between a biblical prophet and Christmas elf. We are also privy to intimate moments of Morrie's final days as he lies dying from a terminal illness. Even on his deathbed, this twinkling-eyed mensch manages to teach us all about living robustly and fully. Kudos to author and acclaimed sports columnist Mitch Albom for telling this universally touching story with such grace and humility.

Science Fiction: *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer

Fields of white opium poppies stretch away over the hills, and uniformed workers bend over the rows, harvesting the juice. This is the empire of Matteo Alacran, a feudal drug lord in the country of Opium, which lies between the United States and Aztlan, formerly Mexico. Field work, or any menial tasks, are done by "eejits," humans in whose brains computer chips have been installed to insure docility. Alacran, or El Patron, has lived 140 years with the help of transplants from a series of clones, a common practice among rich men in this world. The intelligence of clones is usually destroyed at birth, but Matt, the latest of Alacran's doubles, has been spared because he belongs to El Patron. He grows up in the family's mansion, alternately caged and despised as an animal and pampered and educated as El Patron's favorite. Gradually he realizes the fate that is in store for him....

Novella: *The Red Pony* by John Steinbeck

Book of four related stories by John Steinbeck, published in 1937 and expanded in 1945. The stories chronicle a young boy's maturation. In "The Gift," the best-known story, young Jody Tiflin is given a red pony by his rancher father. Under ranch hand Billy Buck's guidance, Jody learns to care for and train his pony, which he names Gabilan. Caught in an unexpected rain, Gabilan catches a cold and, despite Billy Buck's ministrations, dies. Jody watches the buzzards alight on the body of his beloved pony, and, distraught at his inability to control events, he kills one of them. The other stories in *The Red Pony* are "The Great Mountains," "The Promise," and "The Leader of the People," in which Jody develops empathy and also learns from his grandfather about "westerling," the migration of people to new places and the urge for new experiences.