

Thomas Jefferson Charter School
"Developing virtuous citizen leaders."
Mr. King – 7th and 8th Grade Language Arts
High School English Composition
8th Grade Creative Writing



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Student Expectations

I. Rules/Procedures/Consequences

Classroom rules: It is up to you to *know* the classroom rules and procedures, and to follow them.

- R**espect will be shown to all students, staff, and guests.
- E**stablish the habits of learning and working daily.
- S**peak at appropriate times about appropriate matters.
- P**osteriors will remain properly placed in seats.
- E**ngage in all individual and group classroom activities.
- C**onduct in the hallways reflects conduct in the classroom.
- T**ime is never to be wasted!

Classroom procedures: Procedures are a bit harder to identify than rules. Certain things in the classroom will be discussed as the needs arise; however, the following are a list of common procedures.

- a. There will ***always*** be an activity to complete upon entering the classroom (Bellwork). Entry into the classroom and engagement with that activity will always be quiet and respectful.
- b. The restroom is to be used before and/or after class. If an emergency should arise and you must use the restroom during class, please follow the procedures that are discussed with the class.
- c. You should not have to sharpen a pencil because we will not use pencils in this class. Pens of proper blue or black ink only please.
- d. If you miss class for any reason, at an appropriate time, please find out from a trustworthy classmate what assignments were missed. If all else fails, ask me.
- e. The teacher will dismiss the class at the end of the period and the "Conduct" rule mentioned above will be strictly enforced, as students are required to conduct themselves accordingly between classes. Students will exit the room in proper formation.

Emergency procedures: These procedures are of the utmost concern to me. Your safety means so much more to me than any classroom rule, procedure, or even your education. When it comes to fire drills, hall checks, and the like, ***you will not ever*** consider this a time to "act up." For those of you that know

me, I can be a fun and engaging teacher, but when it comes to emergency protocols, YOU WILL FOLLOW MY DIRECTION, WITHOUT QUESTION, EVERY SINGLE STEP OF THE WAY! This is not just for your safety, but also for the safety of others around you. I cannot state this clearly enough; emergency drills are to be treated as though they are the real thing. DO NOT ENDANGER YOURSELF OR ANYONE ELSE BY ACTING UP DURING EMERGENCY DRILLS! We will discuss specific requirements (exiting the room, where to meet, etc.) for emergency procedures during class.

Consequences: Unfortunately, there are some students who at one time or another choose to ignore the classroom rules/procedures. If that happens this year, consequences for those infractions are as follows:

- 1st infraction – verbal reminder / loss of participation points for the day / possible assignment of ROOTS sheet / loss of ticket (if applicable)
- 2nd infraction – one-on-one student/teacher conference / loss of participation points for the day / ROOTS
- 3rd infraction – removal to “buddy class” AND parent/teacher conference / loss of participation points for the day / ROOTS

Any one of these steps can be bypassed at the teacher’s discretion depending on the perceived severity of the infraction. TJCS discipline guidelines will be followed for anything not recognized here.

Incentives will also be awarded to students whose efforts need to be recognized in the classroom.

II. Policies

Classwork/Homework: You will be expected to complete all classwork and homework assignments given to you. The purpose of classwork and homework is to practice and/or show mastery of the topics discussed during lectures. Hold on to all work that is returned to you and check PowerSchool to make sure that assignments are recorded in the gradebook properly. The gradebook will be updated no later than every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month and before progress report/report card due dates.

Late Work: There are penalties for work turned in late. For every day that an assignment is turned in late, a penalty of 10% will be assessed to that particular assignment. This will continue for a maximum of 5 days. After 5 days have passed, the penalty will no longer be compounded daily; instead, the highest possible score that can be garnered for a late assignment after 5 days is 50%. All late work must be handed in to me personally, will be stamped by me personally with the date it was turned in, and will be placed in a late work tray. All late work is due by the end of the quarter reporting deadline for that particular quarter. You will know these final due dates ahead of time. Due to the amount of on-time work that must be graded, late work will be graded as I am able, sometimes up to several weeks later. This can greatly affect students who need grades for outside sports or clubs, or just so that their parents know that they have truly turned in an assignment. Again, it is up to the student to turn work in ON TIME!

If you do not turn in your classwork or homework, you can expect that not only will your grade go down for not completing assignments, but you will also do poorly on assessments, as you are not preparing yourself properly. Thus, your grade continues to go down even further. This creates a vicious cycle of poor grades, falling behind, and eventually failure in class. DO NOT FAIL! Complete all classwork/homework assignments and turn them in WHEN THEY ARE DUE!

Assessments: Tests and quizzes will be administered at the discretion of the teacher. It is your responsibility to be fully prepared for all tests and quizzes. I do not like “pop quizzes” and rarely give them. Quizzes are small exams that students are unable to retake. You must be here to take a quiz and if you cannot be here to take a quiz, you must make arrangements, on your own time, to make up that quiz. Class time will not be used to make up a quiz. Tests are much larger and show a more comprehensive understanding of the content. You are able to retake *most* tests in this class (again, on your own time) for a better grade if you are not happy with the grade you received the first time you took the test. If you retake a test you will either have the same test to take again, for which I will average your two grades; or I will administer a new test to you that covers the same content, for which I will take the higher of the two grades. It is up to my discretion as to which method I will employ. You may only retake a test one time. Again, any missing tests/quizzes or make-up tests need to be completed by the end of the quarter reporting deadline for that particular quarter. You will know these final cut-off dates ahead of time.

All **tests** will be signed by your parents and returned to me for my files. This is for a grade and will follow the same turn-in procedures outlined in the Progress Reports section below.

Progress Reports: Aside from the school mandated progress reports and report cards, it is my sincere belief that parents need to know how their students are doing. With that in mind, I will be sending home progress reports on Mondays following the 2nd and 4th Fridays that grades are inputted into the gradebook. You will have until that Friday to have your progress reports signed by your parent and returned to me for my files. This is a required homework assignment, and it will be recorded in the gradebook. Because you have the entire week to get these signed and returned to me, if they are not in my possession by that Friday, they automatically default to the maximum 50% off if turned in the following Monday (one week after they were handed out to you).

STUDENTS!!!

Please use PowerSchool to check your grades often. Please use MrKingROCKS.com to print out missing assignments and/or to use for links to other assignments as they are posted.

Please use e-mail to contact me!

Participation: All students are expected to participate daily in class. A participation grade of 100/100 points possible will be assessed to each student at the beginning of each quarter. This can be a great boon to students' grades when they come to class on time every day and participate. This can be a terrible burden to students who do not come on time every day and/or do not participate. Participation points will be removed from your overall grade for every tardy, every absence, and every non-participatory incident in class. This includes working on work for another class during my class, using the restroom during class time, talking to a neighbor when attention is to be paid, etc. Participation points can be made up through the completing of ROOTS sheets.

An excellent way to demonstrate your active participation on a daily basis and to show respect in this learning environment is to **SLANT**. SLANT is an acronym that simply means:

- S**it up
- L**ook and Listen
- A**sk and Answer questions
- N**od and take Notes
- T**alk to your Teacher

With SLANT you will notice that it is very much a teacher/student interaction paradigm. Please know that you will not always be asked to focus on the teacher, sometimes you will be the focus of attention and sometimes other students will be that focus. Regardless, you will always incorporate SLANT into your learning process.

When speaking or being asked to speak in class:

- a. The “I don’t know” or a shrug of the shoulders should be removed from your response options.
- b. Do your best to provide a full and complete response that *explains* your response. At the minimum this means a complete sentence response and usually a “because” clause in the sentence. I not only want to know what you think, but why you think it.
 - i. Using the appropriate terminology and academic register (word choice and grammar) is a characteristic of this “best” answer.
- c. The class, and I, will want to hear your thoughtful response, so you may be asked to speak up. Have confidence, or at the least understand that this learning environment will support you to gain that security. (I promise you that I was **very** shy when I was in school.)
- d. When you give your response to a direct question, you will stand up to present your response.

You will also actively listen to the responses of your peers.

Group work: Expect it! Expect to follow procedures while working with groups! Expect to not be able to pick your own groups! Expect to work hard with your group! Expect presentations with your group! Expect group work!!!

Reading: You will read a substantial amount of material for this class. Whether it is class books, individual books, informational texts, news articles, etc. Whatever is assigned, you will be expected to read. Some material you read will be at your grade level, some above, and some below. Everything we read in class has a purpose. You will be asked to not just read, but to be able to interact with your text. We will discuss how to do this in class, but be prepared that for everything you read in this class, you are not just reading it to read it, you will be doing *something* with that reading.

You must always have a reading book on your desk. It is part of your classroom participation grade.

Writing: When it comes to writing, we are going to focus on quality over quantity. You can expect that there will be much more writing this year than you are used to; however, I want you to know that our focus on writing will be the quality of your writing, the final product. You can expect to write essays, research reports, poetry, narratives, analysis papers, and more.

Presentations: There will be several opportunities for you throughout this school year to present to the class. This includes, but is not limited to: book reports, research projects, group reports, and student teaching days.

ROOTS: In order to help prepare you for the technical reading required at the high school level, part of the middle school curriculum at TJCS is to teach Greek and Latin root words to students. It is up to you to have memorized 100 Greek/Latin root words by the end of the school year. This will obviously include the word and the definition of the word, but you will also need to be able to properly use and identify English derivatives of those Greek or Latin roots.

III. Materials

All materials required for this class can be found on the TJCS.org website

IV. Electronics in the classroom

“There will be no electronics allowed in this classroom at any time! All cell phones will be collected at the beginning of class and returned at the end on a daily basis.”

We are blessed to have a classroom set of computers in here. Please read the proper use of computers documentation to refer to how those are to be used.

V. Communication

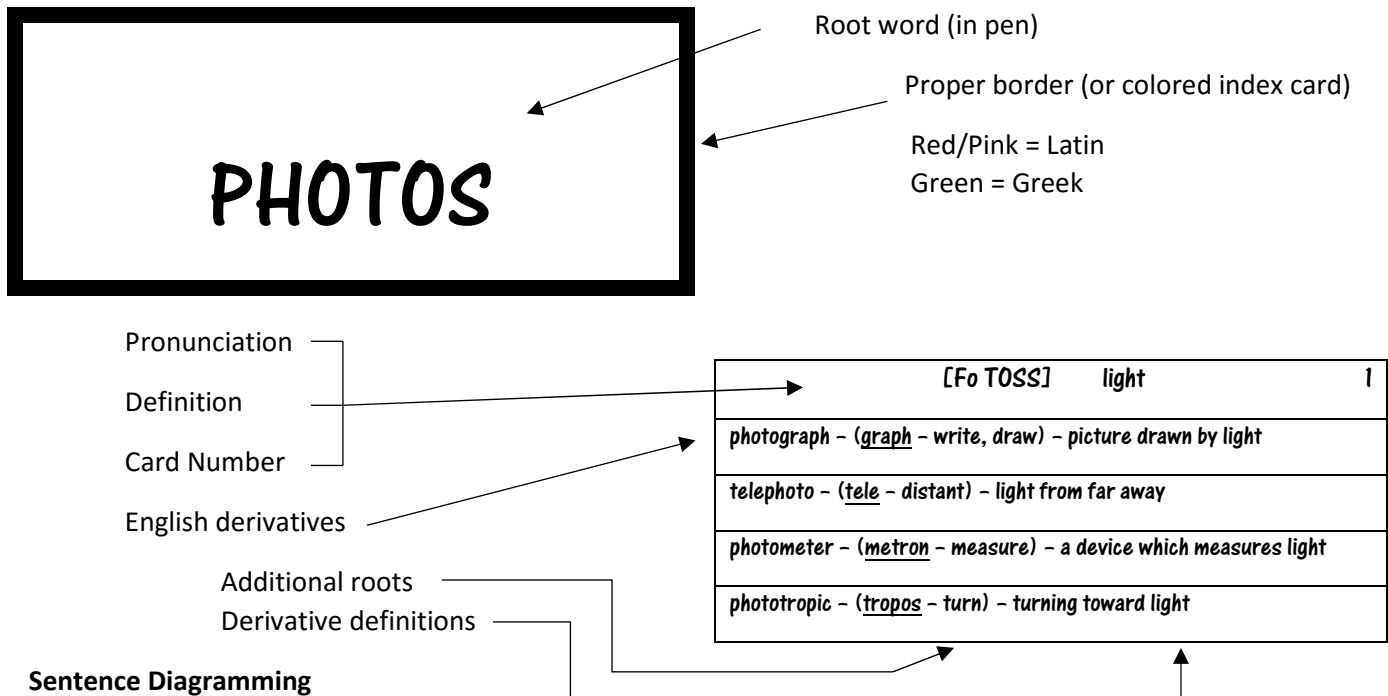
I have learned the necessity of proper communication between parents/students/teacher and know that it is vital to your success this school year. With that in mind, I am asking that you have your parents sign up for Remind 101. This service will allow me to send out text communications to your parents and will also allow for them to respond to me via text. This is my first year using Remind and I do not know how practical it is, but there are other teachers on this campus that have been using it for years and love it. We will see how things go. You may go to my website (mrkingrocks.com) and click on the Remind link or go to remind.com to sign up. The class codes for all of my classes are as follows:

7 th Grade Language Arts	-	@tjcs7la
8 th Grade Language Arts	-	@tjcs8la
8 th Grade Creative Writing	-	@tjcs8cw
High School English Composition “A-day”	-	@tjcseca
High School English Composition “B-day”	-	@tjcsecb

VI. Normal Operations

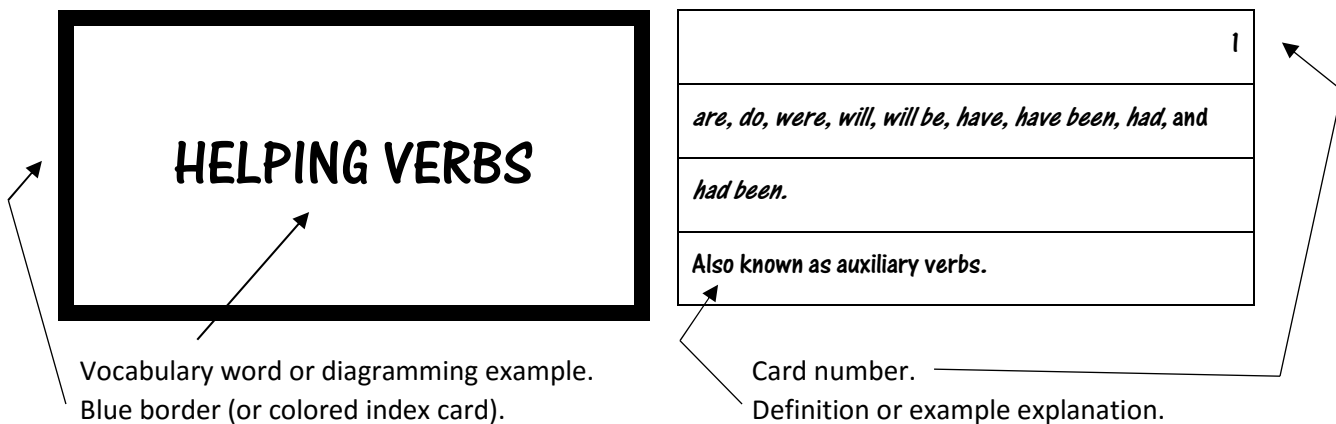
Greek and Latin Roots

Approximately every other Monday you will be given five new Greek/Latin root words that you will need to learn for a total of 25 roots per quarter (100 roots per school year). You will be expected to learn and retain the knowledge of these root words, their definitions, and their English derivatives for both the 7th and 8th grade school years. You will be expected to create and keep index cards for every root word. These cards will include the root and origin (Greek or Latin) on the blank front of the card. On the back lined portion you will have the pronunciation, definition, and English derivatives and their definitions. You will be given assignments throughout the week in relation to the Greek/Latin roots you have learned, AND there will be quizzes administered at the end of every Greek/Latin week, as well as periodic tests.



Sentence Diagramming

Approximately every other Monday you will be presented with a new Sentence Diagramming lesson. It is your responsibility to complete any assignment associated with that week's lesson. In addition to assignments, you will be required to complete flash cards for specific vocabulary or sentence diagramming directions given to you that week. There will be quizzes administered at the end of every Sentence Diagramming week, as well as periodic tests.



20 Books

This school year you will be required to read a minimum of 20 books outside of any classroom assigned books. Beginning the very first week of the school year, and continuing until the end of the year, you will have a total of two weeks to read a book and then complete the appropriate assignments for that book. Sometimes these assignments will be whole class assigned, sometimes they will be individually chosen for the particular book you are reading.

The very first assignment for every book you read will be to create a bookmark. This bookmark will be turned in upon completion of you having finished reading your book. I will supply generic bookmark papers and it is your responsibility to fill them out entirely according to the requirements below.

Front of Bookmark

1. Title of your book
2. Book author
3. Genre
4. Number of pages
5. Your name

Back of Bookmark

1. Number of pages needed to read daily in order to finish reading book within two-week time period; including being able to finish any applicable assignments.
2. Reading schedule

<u>The Hobbit</u>	JRR Tolkien	Fantasy	362 pages	Sammy Hagar
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25 pages per day	3/16 – 1-20	3/17 – 21-50	3/18 – 51-85	3/19 – 86-101	3/20 – 102-120	3/21 – 121-150	3/22 – 151-179	3/23 – 180-209	3/24 – 210-245	3/25 – 246-275	3/26 – 276-298	3/27 – 299-324	3/28 – 325-362	3/29 –
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The final assignment you are going to be required to complete for your 20 Books assignment is to create a Book Blog entry for the book you have just read. In order to access the classroom Book Blogs you will need to go to mrkingrocks.com, click on your grade level, and then choose the Book Blogs tab. If you are asked for a password it is "tjcs1234". Once on the Book Blogs page please click on the DIRECTIONS tab in order to read how to complete a Book Blogs entry. After having completed your entry, you will be asked to comment on two other students' Book Blog entries for that reading period.

This is a serious assignment and you will be expected to treat this assignment with the utmost consideration. This **is not** a place to: 1) demonstrate your inability to capitalize proper nouns, 2) exhibit your incorrect use of proper grammar, or 3) show us all how immature you are by *treating others disrespectfully!* This **will be** a place to: 1) demonstrate your exceptional Language Arts skills, 2) display your ability to follow directions, and 3) offer constructive criticism with tact and respect to your fellow classmates.

Computer Use

We have been blessed to have a classroom set of computers available for us to use. The use of these computers comes with a cost though: your responsible use of them! We do *many* things on computers in my classroom and if you choose to EVER use a computer irresponsibly, you will lose all computer privileges (possibly indefinitely). With the loss of computer privileges you will be unable to complete several assignments throughout the week in class (thereby, increasing your homework load exponentially) and you will be unable to take certain online tests and quizzes (receiving zeros for quizzes and having to take tests by hand in an elementary classroom). Not only that, but I will instruct other teachers who borrow my computers for their classes to not allow you to have access to them. So, needless to say, DO NOT MESS AROUND WHEN IT COMES TO COMPUTERS!!!

Please read the "Proper Use of Computers" document to understand what your responsibilities with the computers are.

You will be given a computer marker card that you must have in order to check out a computer. If you do not have your card, you will not be able to check out a computer until you find your card or obtain a new one from me. We will discuss how these cards are to be used in class.

Library

Every book in the classroom library belongs to me: I have either purchased the book with my own money or the book has been donated to me. Like the computers, the use of the classroom library is a privilege that can be revoked. Treat my books and the library rules with respect and there will not be any problems with you using the library. Choose to be disrespectful and you will not be allowed access to my books again.

As with the computers, you will receive a marker for checking out books from the classroom library. You are expected to use this marker to indicate you have borrowed a book and from where on the bookshelf you procured that book. You will not be allowed to use the classroom library without your marker. When you have found a book that you would like to borrow, please put the marker on the shelf in place of the book you are borrowing, report to the classroom librarian, and fill out the Library Log. When returning a book to the classroom library please present your book to the librarian. They will approve or pull your book. If approved, please return your book to its proper spot in the library, remove your marker, and place it in the designated marker storage. If pulled, please have a seat and leave your marker where it is. You will not be able to check out another book until I have had an opportunity to review your pulled book.

No more than two people are allowed in the library or the Comic Corner at one time (that does include using the drinking fountain).

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Parent Acknowledgement Form

22 August 2017

Dear parents,

I have given your student a copy of their syllabus. I know that at the beginning of the school year you have to sign your name to so many papers that the reading of their contents becomes tedious. In order to alleviate the strain of having to go through my paperwork right this very instant I have uploaded all necessary classroom documents to my website at mrkingrocks.com. You can view them there at your leisure; however, I would like you to take a moment to indicate that you have received this notice and will read the classroom syllabus and any other important classroom documents found on mrkingrocks.com by signing this form below and having your student return it no later than Friday, 8/25. Please also provide for me your contact information.

Signature

Date

Print Name (and relation)

Phone Number

E-mail address

Print Name (and relation)

Phone Number

E-mail address

Any other necessary contact information

Finally, this year I am attempting to use a new (to me) notification service: Remind 101. I would love to be able to contact my entire class using this service. Please take a moment and go to my website and click the link, or go to remind.com to register. This service will hopefully allow us to communicate much more efficiently during our hectic workdays. Thank you for your time and what I'm sure will be an amazing school year!