Dear Students, (Revised 2018)

Welcome to my class! If you love reading, then you have found the right class. If you have any questions about the class expectations feel free to set up conferences to get help or to discuss any class concern that you have. As always, I look forward to teaching you as well as learning from you this year and feel that with common goals and respect, we can have a successful class.

 Sincerely,

 Scott Ferguson

 jferguson@wcpss.net / ApexFerg.weebly.com

**Trends & Movements in Young Adult Literature Curriculum**: “Trends” is an elective designed to expose students to themes and trends in literature from 1969 to the present. Students may read young adult novels, dramas, short stories, and poetry. There will also be films and podcasts dealing with teenage issues that will lead to class discussions and novel comparisons. Students will participate in literature circles, discuss literature, and may develop presentations/projects.

**Class Rules & Expectations**:

1. ***Be Respectful***: Respect others by sincerely listening to them, discussing issues respectfully, and including others in your conversations. Also understand when it is respectful to speak and when it is respectful to listen.

2. ***Be Punctual***: Be seated in your desk when the tardy bell rings and have all of your materials present and

 ready.

3. ***Be Appropriate***: This includes your language, your content, and your movement. It also includes a

 general self-awareness that you are in a community.

4. ***Be Aware***: Notice things around you and make sure that you are aware of other people’s needs,

 situational needs, and classroom needs. Be aware of how you can make our class better.

5. ***Be Responsible***: It is the responsibility of the student to initiate make-up work at an appropriate time

 upon return. Students should check the weebly site for missing assignments (ApexFerg.weebly.com).

6. ***Be Engaged***: Students are expected to actively read and participate in thoughtful book discussions and

 movie discussions.

7. ***Be Present***: I want you to be present with us in body, mind, and spirit. Unless otherwise stated, all

 electronic communication devices should be off your desk and on the “off” setting. Visits to the

 restroom should be made before and after class. You will have 3 bathroom passes per quarter. You

 should not be working on any assignments from other classes during our time together.

8. ***Be Helpful***. If someone needs help or if something needs to be done, help out. How can you contribute

 to helping making this class better? Don’t wait for someone else to do it. Take ownership and

 responsibility for helping out.

9. ***Be Pleasant***: Be someone who others gravitate towards. Laugh at the teacher’s corny jokes. Laugh at

 yourself. Listen to others and sincerely care what they have to say. When appropriate, share with your

 classmates and enjoy being able to read and discuss books, movies, and issues with others.

10***. Be Interesting***: Boring people get bored. Keep a good attitude and make the assignments and time in

 this class fun and interesting. This class will be as interesting as you make it.

**Quarter Grades**: All grades are averaged together equally.

-Free Reading Page Count and Card Update = 1 Grade

 -Book Club and Free Reading Discussion = 1 Grade

 -On-Task Reading = 1 Grade

***-***Presentations (Possible)

-Other assignments that may be created as the semester continues.

*Note*: If a student misses a day that we are doing a book club discussion, that student should look on ApexFerg.weebly.com and answer five questions (3-6 sentences for each answer) and turn those answers in to receive credit for their book club participation. Failure to do this within one week of return will cause a deduction in the “Book Club / Book Talk” category. The student should label the book title and pages/chapters covered for this session.

**Homework / Class Participation**: Most of your grades will come from “Book Club” Readings, “Book Club” discussions, “Free-Reading” discussion and analysis, and book presentations. You are expected to be thoughtful, engaged, and scholarly during book discussions and class discussions. Your homework will mainly consist of reading. Your homework amount will depend on how much you need to read to meet assigned deadlines.

**Books / Novels:** You are expected to bring your free reading book and your assigned novel to class each day. Failure to bring your books to class will result in grade deductions.

# **Recommended Purchases:** We will have a core set of books for students to read in literature circles. However, in the past students have wanted different titles than our department has available, so those students purchased their own personal copies of some novels that they self-selected.

***Free Reading****:* Part of my goal for this class is for students to be able to read some books of their choice. These can be personal books or books checked out through public libraries or our own media center. Throughout the semester, you will be required to read **at least 500 pages** of free reading each quarter. The novels do not include the novels we will be reading from our class curriculum / book clubs. If you do not have your book for free-reading, there will be point deductions in your grade. Please see my weebly for research and information about the positive impact that free reading has. **You, along with your parents, need to be aware that the books may contain offensive material to you. It is your and your parents’ responsibility to research the background to the book as this is a free reading assignment**.

**Weebly:**  The assignments & rubrics will usually be posted for at least two weeks ahead of the current school week. If a student is absent, he/she is expected to use ApexFerg.weebly.com for clarification.

**Ethics:** My classroom honor code states: “***I will not lie, steal, or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does.***” This applies to all obvious and common sense situations & to the free reading pages you write down.

***To the Parent and the Student***: Please sign and return this sheet stating your support of the classroom policies and procedures as well as the class honor code (A copy of this sheet is on my weebly site.)

Student’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Legibly Printed Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian’s Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Legibly Printed Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Are there any** **IEP / 504 / Medical Concerns / Allergies of which I need to be aware?**

 **Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**If yes, please explain them here or please email me specifically at JFerguson@wcpss.net :**