

**Course Description:** In this class, students will study a variety of literature and focus on thinking, reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in accordance with CA and *Common Core Standards* [<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc>]. Students will strengthen their character while developing skills in communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity.

**Educational Material:** Students will need the following materials:

- ✓ Composition Book
- ✓ Highlighters: Green, yellow, & blue
- ✓ 3x3 Post-its
- ✓ Binder Reminder
- ✓ SSR/BC book
- ✓ InkPens: Blue/Black & Green

**Homework Policy:** Written homework will be assigned an average of three days a week and is generally due at the start of class the following day. ***However, reading homework will be assigned daily for 20 minutes.***

- Homework assignments will be displayed and students will be given time at the beginning of each period to write the assignment in their Binder Reminder. It is the students' responsibility to write the assignments in their Binder Reminder. Parents and guardians should refer to the Binder Reminder/eKadence for the students' assignments and due dates.
- Only students with a verified absence will be allowed to make up missed assignments. ***It is the responsibility of the student to ask for the missed assignments.*** Please use the Binder Reminder or Study Buddies as tools to assist with absent work.
- Turning in absent or make-up work: Write "absent" by your name and hand the assignment to Ms. Cooley.
- The teacher is not required to provide work for upcoming absences.
- One assignment per semester will require student attendance at one after school event as an audience member or presenter. The purpose of the assignment will be to encourage student involvement at a high level of excellence.
- Due to the high level of excellence expected in this course, if a student believes their quality of work would benefit from additional time they may confer with the teacher 24 hours in advance of the assignment due date to request extended time for their work. The expectation will be that the student needs to come to class with the portion of the assignment completed so far and a clear vision as to what the student hopes to achieve in the extended time. ***A student may not come empty handed, or a zero will be earned for the assignment. An extension for an assignment is up to the teacher's discretion.*** Otherwise late papers/assignments are ***not accepted in this course.***

**Grading Policy:** Grading is based on a point system. Assignments will be weighted according to the time and effort required. The overall grade is comprised of Reading (30%), Writing (30%), Speaking & Listening (30%), and Academic Practices (10%). If students have missing, incomplete, or unsatisfactory assignments they may receive an N or U for effort.

A	90-100%	Students in an honors course need to maintain a B- or higher
B	80-89%	in order to remain in the course. If a student falls below a B-
C	70-79%	he/she will be placed on academic probation and a letter will
D	60-69%	be sent home to notify parents. If the grade does not improve
F	Below 59%	the student will be removed from the course at the quarter or semester.

**Classroom Donations:** In order to assist students in their daily activities and projects, there are supplies that we will need for the year. Your help in donating any items throughout the year is greatly appreciated.

- Tissue/Kleenex
- 2 Metal Staplers
- Expo Markers & Baby Wipes for Desks
- Reams of copy paper
- Classroom library donations: Barnes & Noble or Amazon Gift Cards
- 3 X 3 Post-it Notes

**Student/Parent/Teacher Contact:** In order to help students successfully transition from elementary school to high school, parent emails or messages will be addressed *after* the student has spoken or emailed me. My email is [cooley\\_ke@auhsd.us](mailto:cooley_ke@auhsd.us). I will be using eKadence to post the week at a glance and class resources.

**Classroom Behavior:** Lexington Junior High is a teaching and learning community. All adults and students work together to create a safe, warm, and orderly environment that supports academic excellence and good citizenship. Each member of our community is expected to contribute as well as to take responsibility for his/her/their own behavior.

When students intentionally disrupt our learning community they may be subject to consequences such as loss of privilege of participation, detention, parent conference, a worksheet analyzing their behavior, letters home, or an N or U in citizenship.

We want our classroom to be encouraging and conducive to learning at all times. In this way, young people develop behavioral skills which are necessary for successful lives.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Cooley