

**Course Syllabus**  
**Mrs. Debbie Johnson**  
**Reading Strategies**

**Basic Information**

This is a course only offered in the Special Education instructional program. This class involves working on the skills needed to help in both vocabulary development and the many aspects of reading. This class is being offered to special education instructional students in each of the five high schools in Williamson County. My e-mail address is [djohnson@cartervilleions.com](mailto:djohnson@cartervilleions.com) . My classroom is located in the “new wing” in room 109. It is wonderful having both air conditioning, a window and back to a full sized classroom!

**Class Information**

I expect each student to come prepared to work daily. Please expect to **ALWAYS** need to have pen/pencil, paper and your textbook. The textbooks will vary as we go through the school year. We will have a “word of the day” each school day. These words are taken from a variety of sources, and are words that are seen in high school testing. We have tests over each set of 15 words. We will discuss these words, and talk about their use. Ask your child about them! I encourage them to write their “word of the day” in their planners or notebooks. Besides “regular reading”, we will also use a variety of novels. Most of the novels chosen are done so because of their vocabulary and comprehension abilities with high school students. This course can cover two school years. Within these school years we may read and discuss such diverse works as Holes, Animal Farm, To Kill A Mockingbird, Night, Mice and Men, Lord of the Flies, My Horse Chose Me, The Cay , Timothy of the Cay , Call of the Wild and/or others deemed necessary at CHS. Works of Shakespeare will also be discussed. Besides the use of novels, it is the hope we will also improve the reading ability and love of reading for each student.

**Course Policies**

If a student is given an assignment, expect that it will be graded. Most all activity is handled in the classroom, so rarely will outside homework be given. Each assignment is graded by the amount of points it was worth. (Twenty questions = twenty points) Points are deducted for missed or incomplete answers, or not following the directions. After the first month, five points are deducted if their name is not on their paper. Tests are graded by the percentage of 100...with a perfect test being given at 100%. Participation grades will also be used in this class, as we discuss various aspects of the novels. The grading scale is what Carterville High School uses, unless the student has an adjusted grading scale as a part of their IEP plan.

In order for each student to be successful, they need to use their time in class to build their knowledge base. They need to come to class prepared to learn, and expect to be taught. If they miss class, they are expected to see me the day they return to see what they've missed. I allow extra days to make up their work on an individual basis, but they

will be told when I expect them to have their work in. If they do not make up their work by the assigned date, points will be deducted. Students tend to feel overwhelmed if they miss very much, so it is imperative they are here daily in order to show their best effort. If they are tardy for my class I deal with this on an individual basis. If they can physically get here on time I expect them to do so! As far as their academic work is concerned, I expect each student to try their best and do their own work. Cheating is not tolerated, and a 0 will be given.

### **Note to Parents**

Students are in my classroom for a variety of reasons, and much of what they are expected to accomplish will be on an individual basis. Therefore when parents look at STI home, I want them to realize **all** assignments are posted, but not all assignments will be for their child. It may say "Reading Strategies I or II" as the class, but students within that class may not all have the same assignment. I appreciate the chance to work with your child. You have given me an opportunity I am grateful for, and value.

### **Class Rules and Information**

**Mrs. Debbie Johnson**

- 1) Treat yourself and others with respect. This includes your classmates, your peers and all adults.**
- 2) Have all materials needed for class. Always bring paper/pencil/pen.(This includes any regular ed class you may be taking...PE clothes included!)**
- 3) Food and drink are no-no's. We will tell you if there is a special occasion in which we allow it. Please eat all meals in the cafeteria.**
- 4) Gum is ok as long as it is chewed. Just don't abuse either the gum or others by popping, bubbles, etc....and put it only in the trash when finished.**
- 5) Only appropriate language is used at all times.**
- 6) Enjoy the opportunity to learn all you can while a student at CHS. Get involved in the many activities CHS offers.**
- 7) Expect to follow the rules as set forth in the CHS student handbook.**

**Warnings and/or detentions will be given for breaking these rules. Repeated breaking of rules will call for additional measures. This could possibly include calling your parent, ACR, or change in special education placement.**