**Reynolds High School**

**Urban Legends & Monsters**

*Building Relationships for Academic Success*

**Instructor Name:** Ms. Champney

**Phone with Ext: 503-667-3186 Ext 1062**

**Room Number:** 602

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**Required Textbooks/Materials:** Every student must have a binder containing a section for this class.  Paper, a sharpened pencil, a pen and a highlighter, as well as a Student Planner, are required every day.   Students should also bring a book of their choice each day to read for SSR. The book is your choice of fiction or nonfiction. The book just should have something to do with urban legends or monsters. For the first month of school students should bring their name tag that they make in class to place on their desk. Sometimes they will need their fully charged Chromebook. This will be announced.

**Course Description** –

**Introduction and teaching philosophy:** I graduated from Lewis & Clark college with my MA in teaching. Before teaching at RHS I taught at an alternative school that consisted of all boys just out of Juvenile Hall and in foster care. This is my 6th year at RHS. I believe in student centered activities and choice.  I want to get to know you and create engaging lessons that you enjoy. I want you to read texts that you enjoy, and I want you to have fun. I also want to challenge you. Please let me know your interests and needs in this class. Please let me know what works for you and any suggestions. I am always willing to change some things based on your needs. Let me know what you need to be happy and successful. I believe in the mind growth set and that you can achieve anything you believe. Please respect each other. I believe in creating a safe space where ALL students feel welcomed.  ALL degrading remarks are not allowed in this classroom.

**Course Description** – In this yearlong course, students will study Urban legends and Monsters. They will develop reading, writing, research, speaking, and critical thinking skills. Students will read short stories, watch short films, and listen to podcasts. I will have some brief lectures, and presentations on Urban legends and monsters. Students will read informational text about urban legends and monsters and analyze it. We will look at the cultural phenomenon of urban legends. What is an Urban legend? What characteristics does it have? What is the purpose? How can you create one? Where do they come from? How can you tell if Urban legend is fact or fiction? How do you research an Urban legend? Students will use critical thinking skills to look at how urban legends are created, themes in urban legends, how to research, how to check the validity of urban legends, and how to research about monsters. Students will learn about Cryptids. What is Cryptology? Students will learn origins of some Cryptids and geographical locations of some famous monsters. Students will use critical thinking skills, reading skills, and writing skills to learn about urban legends and monsters. Students will do close reading of texts and write their own creative stories. In this fun and stimulating class students will read and analyze the cultural phenomenon of urban legends and monsters. Students will learn about many Urban legends and monsters. Students will work on research projects and write their own creative monster and urban legend stories. They will look at “what is an urban legend? “, “How do you research if an urban legend is fact or fiction?”, “What is a Cryptid?” “Are Monsters real”, “Is Big foot real or fiction and how can we tell?”, “what is evidence?” and is “is man a monster?” or “who are the real monsters?” and other such questions. Students will also get a chance to make a short film or do another creative project regarding urban legends and monsters. Students will also have the opportunity to develop vocabulary and play fun games that develop their literary skills and knowledge of Cryptids.   This elective is developed by using the skills and concepts listed in the Common Core Standards, designed to ensure that students are exposed to the skills that they need to prepare for college and life and to have fair access to college-level and other advanced courses.  This course will use student-centered lessons, focusing on critical and creative thinking skills, reflection, high level questioning, and application of knowledge and skills in new situations.  Prepare for fun. Learning, and some popcorn during films.

**Course Requirements** – – All students will be held to a high standard. In this course, we will read and write a variety of texts. We will watch some short films and listen to podcasts. Students will write creative pieces, reflective pieces, as well as a research paper.   There will be quizzes, tests or creative assessments on the texts we have read.   There will be worksheets, individual projects and group projects.  Students will be expected to read, write, and speak daily. We can switch things up to what students need and prefer.

**Grading Policy Description** –– Your grade will be based on proficiency in the state standards for this course. Your grade will be determined by both formal and informal assessments in the four domains of language: reading, writing, speaking and listening, including: classwork, homework, quizzes, exams, and projects. Your final grade will be reported on a traditional A-F scale:

Your categories you are graded on are the following:

Homework 5 %

Participation 5%

Classwork 20%

Mastery 70 %

You will get points on your worksheets, quizzes, and tests. You will get points for each one correct. This is to assess your understanding of the material. For research projects and written projects, you will receive a rubric. For these assignments you can earn between 5 to 1 point.

Points look like this:

5 points = A

4 points = B

3 points= C

2 points= D

1 point = failing

M = missing

You will read 10 minutes a day for SSR (silent sustained reading) a book of your choice related to urban legends or monsters. You can read comic book or graphic novel. You read at the start of class. The second the bell rings you are to be reading quietly. You will do a poster about your book at the end of each quarter.

You will get points/grades each week based on participation. Part of participation is reading quietly, following directions, listening to me when I give instructions, being quiet during videos or writing time, and sharing your writing with the class or speaking up in class when questions asked, etc. You are free to talk with peers when you work on worksheets, but not when reading or writing. There will be games and other group activities where you can talk with your peers.

**Letter Grade Description & Percentage Breakdown**

(The following is our current language in the course catalog)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade Percentage** | **Letter Grade** | **Description** |
| 100% - 90% | **A** | The student fully understands the content and the course objectives have been mastered. |
| 89% - 80% | **B** | The student understands the content and course objectives at an above average level. |
| 79% - 70% | **C** | The student understands the course content and course objectives at an average level. |
| 69% - 60% | **D** | The student understands the course content at a below average level and a minimum of course objectives are met. |
| 59% - 0% | **F** | The student has not met a sufficient number of course objectives to pass a minimum level and receives no credit. |

**Late Work/Retake Policy**

You can hand in late work but need approval from me. You can retake most assignments.

**Course Schedule/Outline of Units**

**Course Schedule/Order of Books**  ( schedule and curriculum may change)

**Units  and Texts:**  SSR (book of choice for each quarter)

**1st Quarter:** SSR (book of choice related to urban legends or monsters), Short stories and articles, short films, podcast. Internet research. What is a urban legend, urban legend research projects, create your own urban legend etc

**2nd Quarter:**   What is a monster, what is a cryptid, research of cryptids, how to know if monster real or not, how to create a monster story, etc

**3rd Quarter:**What is a real monster? Is man a monster?

**4th Quarter:**  urban legends & monsters continues more in depth

**Prizes:** Each quarter earn a free day of board games & free food if class does what it is supposed to do each quarter. Pizza party with games? You can earn a part each quarter. How? Stay OFF cell phones unless I give permission for class activity, quiet during silent reading time, only speak when asked or working on projects together. Do not talk over my instructions. Stay in seats until the bell rings. Be respectful of each other. Each time someone breaks a rule that’s a strike. X. 3 strikes is DO not win party with food. Less than 3 strikes is a game day with free food. Also, I often give out individual prizes or snacks if I see people doing what they should and during Kahoot reviews etc. Also, feel free to join me during lunch if you want.

**Class Expectations:** Practice POWER (prepared, engaged, writing, organized, Respectful)

It is the **student’s responsibility to find out what assignments they missed in class**.  Late work **will** be accepted.  Students with excused absences will have one extra day to hand in work missed during their absence.

1. **Be in your seat, prepared to work when the tardy bell rings.**  Have all your materials out on your desk and be ready to give me your attention.  (*Starting class on time is important to me.*)
2. **Be kind and try hard**!  Be kind and respectful to everyone in this class, *even when you don’t feel like it.* Do your best work, even if you don’t like the activity.  **No derogatory language. No bullying.**
3. Put your phones away BEFORE walking into class. Stereos and electronic communication devices need to be **TURNED OFF and PUT AWAY**.  You willbe out of touch with the outside world during class time. Other than you can listen to music while you read SRR. I will LET you know when devices are allowed for projects. **I expect you to focus on Class work for the whole class period.** Your parents/guardians may call the office if they need to reach you during class time. Excessive cell phone use will result in lowered grades. Stay off phones unless permission is given by me.

1. **Keep your backpack and/or purse OFF your desk or lap.**
2. **Always clean up after yourself (**put books etc in correct spot/part of participation points) and **EATING and DRINKING IS PERMITTED but NOT allowed to go get door dash etc. during class.** . Clean up after yourself though so no rodents come into class. I often give prizes of food.

*\* Please see the Student Code of Conduct on* ***pages 4-20*** *in your Planner, including cheating and* ***plagiarism on page 7.***  No cheating.

**Student** Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian** Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email address (or phone number):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_