Hi! My name is Joni Turner and I have been teaching here at Monroe County Middle School for ten years. MCMS is a great school and a wonderful place to teach. During my time here, I have taught English, reading, Language Arts, and journalism/yearbook. I received my undergraduate and graduate degrees from Western Kentucky University.

Classroom Expectations
1. Honor—Do your own work.
2. Expectations—I have high expectations for all my students and I expect you to do the same for yourself.
3. Attitude—You must have and keep a positive attitude.
4. Respect—You must respect yourself, others, teacher and staff, and school property.
5. Teamwork—We are a team, and you must act as a team player.

Supplies
I require only a few basic supply purchases for my class. You will need the following: a notebook (for this class only), a folder (for this class only), a composition book, and a pencil. It is imperative that you arrive with these items on a daily basis.

Course Description
7th grade reading will implement teacher-directed instruction, individual work, group work, student-directed instruction, paired work, projects, on-demand writing, writing to learn, writing to demonstrate learning, writing for authentic audiences and purposes, multiple intelligence focused differentiation, Thoughtful Education strategies, etc. in order to meet the Kentucky Core Content Standards and Program of Studies in reading, writing, vocabulary, speaking, listening, studying and researching, and using technology. We will concentrate our focus on improving reading skills. Students will learn and apply various reading strategies to make sense of a variety of print and non-print texts. Also, students will read a variety of literary genres, including shorts stories, poems, plays, novels, and nonfiction. Upon reading these materials, students will complete different exercises such as comprehension tests, open responses, projects, and writings.

Methods of Evaluation
I do not give grades; I merely report them. The grades students will receive on their report card will only be the summative grades, meaning tests, projects, and demonstration of learning.

Make-up Work Procedure and Policy
Absences—Within the room, there will be a specific place that students should look to find make-up work if they are absent. The student has the same number of days he/she was absent to make up and work missed. Students are responsible for checking on missed assignments and tests. Students can check my website or call a reliable friend from class to find out what was missed. In addition, the classroom planner, located at the front of the room, will contain the assignment for each class. Students can check this and then locate any necessary paperwork from the designated spot.

Course Outline
Reading and writing complement each other and research proves the more a student reads, the better he or she writes.

1st Nine Weeks
Elements of a short story
Read selected short stories
Rikki-Tikki-Tavi
A Boy and His Dog
A Boy and a Man
Too Soon a Woman
A Day’s Wait
Zoo
Watch Rip Van Winkle
Amigo Brothers
All Summer in a Day
Create and develop a character
Illustrate settings of various stories
Read the novel, Hatchet or Hoot (will be decided at a later date)
Related novel project

2nd Nine Weeks
Drama
Myths
Legends
Fables
Folk Tales
Poetry
Figurative language
Poetic devices
Read selected poems
Rhyme scheme
Create poem
Writing techniques and strategies

3rd Nine Weeks
Informational reading
Vocabulary
Nonfiction
Essays
Biographies
Autobiographies
Selected readings
Internet—text features
Persuasive reading
Magazine articles
Newspaper articles
Brochures
Editorials
Selected readings

4th Nine Weeks
Practical/workplace readings
Agendas
Maps
Menus
Recipes
Charts/graphs
Number the Stars/The Boy in the Striped Pajamas
Related novel project

This is a working syllabus and may be subject to change with the needs of the students.