**Middle School English Glossary**

**SSR =Sustained Silent Reading**: students have 5-10 minutes of SSR at the beginning of many English classes. They may also have longer SSR periods at other times of the day. It is very important that students have a book to read during SSR time. The library and the classroom have many great titles for students to borrow.

**IR Book=Independent Reading Book**: all students have selected an IR book at this time. They are reading them at home, during SSR, and in class when they finish a task before others. Grade 5-7 will complete at least 1 IR book each trimester. Grade 8 students will complete 2 per trimester. Beyond that requirement, students will set individual goals for themselves about how many and what type of books they wish to read. Students will complete projects and share about their IR books as part of class.

**IRL=Independent Reading Log**: all students created their IRLs online (Google Drive) or in a green paper booklet. The IRL choices have been shared using Google Drive or pasted into the green booklets. Students should write a log whenever they have free time or when they reach a part of the text that they wish to respond to.

**WN =Writer’s Notebook**: this is a composition book or spiral bound notebook used for brainstorming, “quickwrites”, responses to literature, drafts of writing, and so on. This book should remain in the classroom on days when they do not need to bring it home. For Grade 6 Writing, the notebook entries are part of the final grade each trimester. For English 7 & 8, the notebook is checked and used for sharing but not formally graded.

**WPP = Words Per Paragraph**: Each grade level has a set expectation for the amount included in a paragraph response or IRL entry. The amount is a goal, not a limit. Students are always welcome to write more and should be pushing themselves to do so if the goal is easily achievable.

**Grade 8 = 100 words**

**Grade 7 = 90 words**

**Grade 6 = 80 words**

**Grade 5 = 70 words**

**Google Drive and Google Classroom:** Students are using their Google accounts frequently in English class. They are expected to find and utilize shared documents and to “share” their work with me as well. Completing assignments on Google is great because students don’t have to worry about misplacing a paper or forgetting to save their work. They can access their document on any device that connects to the internet. When students use Google for homework, they can print from home or simply share the document with me. I can make comments and corrections right on the shared document. Google also allows students to work collaboratively on one document at the same time from different locations. When students are absent they can check in Classroom to see if a new assignment was posted.

**QUIZLIT:** Quizlit is an online vocabulary program that allows students to study vocabulary words from class in a variety of ways. They can use online flashcards, hear the correct pronunciation, play games using the words, and more. Students can access the Quizlit sets from any computer with internet access. They log-in through their Google account. There is also a Quizlit application for smartphones and tablets. All vocabulary words will be available on Quizlit for students to study prior to any quiz or test.

**BLOGGER:** Blogger.com will be utilized in Grade 7/8 English as a way to communicate in pairs or small groups about independent reading books. Students may choose to blog about a book with peers instead of keeping the traditional IR log.

**FREE RICE:** Free Rice is an online learning game that helps feed the hungry. For every correct answer that students choose, 10 grains of rice are donated to help the United Nations World Food Program. 5-8th graders have joined our Cornwall Middle School group to play vocabulary and grammar games against each other. They can access this site from any computer with internet. The site provides a fun way to practice ELA skills while helping others in need.

**NOODLETOOLS:** This year 5-8th graders will have accounts for the online research site, Noodletools. This gives them access to interactive tools for note-taking, citation, and collaborative research and writing. Students will utilize Noodletools anytime they are doing research for a major project or assessment. Noodletools saves their information in a convenient spot that can be accessed from any computer with internet connection. Noodletools will compile citations and export their works cited page directly to Google Drive.