In junior high, students read any number of young adults books while also being bombarded with trailers for new movies, which are often based off these books. In this class, students will evaluate how well these stories translate to the screen as well as what makes a good story, whether in print or on film.

We will be reading and watching:

➢ Holes - Louis Sachar
   ○ “Holes” (2003, PG)

➢ A Series of Unfortunate Events, Book 1: The Bad Beginning - Lemony Snicket
   ○ “Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events” (2004, PG)
   ○ “Netflix Presents: A Series of Unfortunate Events” (2017, PG)

➢ The Hobbit - J.R.R. Tolkien
   ○ “The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey” (2012, PG)
   ○ “The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug” (2013, PG-13)
   ○ “The Hobbit” (1977, Not Rated)

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about film selections.
The book is a film that takes place in the mind of the reader. That’s why we go to movies and say, “Oh, the book is better.”

-Paulo Coelho

Class Expectations

BE PREPARED
➢ Come to class on time, with the necessary supplies. This means being in your seat at the start time, focused and ready to learn, with your book and notebook.
➢ Keep up with the reading!

BE RESPECTFUL
➢ Respect yourself and others.
➢ Respect our class time and our materials (return books in the same condition you received them).
➢ At NO point do we talk during movies. Period.

DO YOUR BEST
➢ Be responsible for your learning; work hard and do your best.
➢ Don’t be afraid to ask for help.
➢ Still try, even on activities that aren’t your favorite!

The Goal of This Class

Everyone has walked out of a theater, exclaiming, “The book was better!” This course seeks to understand why. Why, if society so universally agrees about book-to-movie adaptations, do directors continue to make these attempts? We will read books, watch related movies and evaluate the directors’ choices and authors’ intent. Students will have an opportunity to try their hand at scripting scenes from in-class books as well as evaluating and discussing the way society consumes information and stories. Students who complete this course will be able to analyze Literature and pop-culture phenomenons, as well as our need for stories in all forms. This course seeks to unite reading classes with the theater arts. It should appeal to both readers and those interested in either writing, acting, or directing.

Grading

Homework & Classwork (40%)
Movie Responses (30%)
Reading Quizzes (20%)
Final (10%)

Late/Absent Work

Late & Absent work must still be submitted to the Late/Absent box in English Class and labelled as “Late” or “Absent” on the top. Late work will be worth 50%. Students have 2 days for every absent day to return missing work for full credit. Late/absent work is updated on Thursday before eligibility.
Please detach and return this page to acknowledge that you have read and understand the syllabus. Feel free to contact me with any questions regarding policies and/or movies: adoyle@jajags.com.

Signed syllabus is due Friday, January 10th.

STUDENT PRINTED NAME: __________________________________________

STUDENT SIGNATURE: __________________________________________

PARENT PRINTED NAME: __________________________________________

PARENT SIGNATURE: __________________________________________