

Syllabus

Course Synopsis:

Students will read a variety of literature including short stories, fiction and non-fiction novels, and poetry. Students will learn how authors use the elements of fiction to create captivating, engaging, and intelligent works of literature. In this class we will discuss not only the themes presented within the literature, but rather we will transcend the words on the page and discuss how these themes relate to our own current world, as well as examine the author's purpose. As to be expected, writing will be a critical aspect of this class, and we will continue to hone our skills as writers. Vocabulary and grammar will also be taught throughout the year as they are crucial to the expansion of the understanding of the English language.

Expectations:

- To be successful in this class, students will strive to be hardworking, persistent, and resilient.
- Our classroom is filled with diverse learners; everyone will be treated in an equitable manner.
- Be prepared

Bring to class every day, in-person learning:
agenda book, pen or pencil, independent
reading book, Writer's Notebook
(composition notebook; or notes on laptop)

- Be engaged – As soon as you enter this domain, have all necessary materials out on your learning space and write down the homework that is posted on the board.
= Your day to change the world, starts today. =

Literature: These are listed in no specific order. The titles in bold are core pieces that will be taught at some point throughout the year. At least two other novels from this list will also be read. At the end of each unit, we will have a Socratic Seminar. The percentage of its grade is included in "Class Activities" (see below).

Touching Spirit Bear -- Ben Mikaelson

American Born Chinese – Gene Luen Yang

The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees – Don Brown

To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee

The House on Mango Street – Sandra Cisneros

A Raisin in the Sun – Lorraine Hansberry

Monstress – Lysley Tenorio

On the Come Up – Angie Thomas

Inside, Out, and Back Again – Thanhha Lai

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time – Mark Haddon

One Crazy Summer – Rita Williams-Garcia

The Book Thief – Markus Zusak
Lord of the Flies – William Golding
Romeo and Juliet – William Shakespeare
The Outsiders – S.E. Hinton
The Chosen – Chaim Potok
Night – Elie Wiesel
Various poems and short stories

Scoring: Assignments in this class will be weighted. The percentage breakdown is as follows:

Homework	10%
In Class Activities (Formative Assessments)	20%
Essays, Projects, Tests, etc. (Summative Assessments)	70%

Late, Missing, or Incomplete Assignments: Homework that is late will only be accepted one day late (it must be in by the beginning of the next day's class period) and for half credit. For example, if a 10 point homework is due Tuesday and a student brings it in Wednesday, that student will receive 5 points toward the homework. If it is more than one day late it will not be accepted.

If a major assignment is late, such as a project or an essay, 10% of the total grade will be deducted each day it is late. For example, if a student hands in a paper worth 30 points one day late then 3 points will automatically be deducted from the grade for lateness.

If an assignment is missing due to an **absence**, the student will receive one day for each day he or she is absent to make up the work and hand it in. For longer absences, the student must meet with me and discuss a plan for making up the work.

Second Chance Learning (SCL): If a student scores below a 70% on a major test or paper, the student may approach me in order to retake the test or rewrite the paper. To be able to benefit from SCL the student must first set up a time with me so that we may go over what was misunderstood.

Extra Help: If you are having difficulty with a particular aspect of this course, please seek me out for extra help. I am available to help you out after school.

*If you have any questions, my email is [Teacher Email]

Please store this syllabus in the front of your binder so that you can refer back to it throughout the year.

I always promote the idea that parents speak with their children about what they are learning in class. Especially in English class, we speak of many themes and topics that are relevant to everyday life that could also be discussed at home!

Student Signature _____

Date_____

Parents Signature _____

Date_____