

9th Grade English Language Arts Syllabus

Course Description

The ninth grade English curriculum at Steilacoom High School stems from the College Board Standards for College Success and the Common Core National Standards. SpringBoard, the College Board's official Pre-AP program, is our foundation. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and collaborative strategies are purposefully used to build knowledge and skills and to help students become independent readers, writers, and thinkers.

Unit	Texts	Embedded Assessments
Coming of Age	Informational texts, personal essays, novel excerpt, biography, art, poetry, memoir, film, interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing and Presenting an Interview/Narrative
Coming of Age on Stage	Drama, novel excerpts, <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• R & J Analysis• Synthesis Argument
Argumentative Writing	Non-fiction texts, informational texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Argumentative Essay/Research Team
Coming of Age in Changing Times	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thematic Analysis• Historical Investigation Presentation
Defining Style	Poetry, Short Stories, Films— <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> , <i>Edward Scissorhands</i> , & <i>Big Fish</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing a Short Story• Writing a Style Analysis Essay

Grading/Evaluation

Grades are an accurate account of what students know and/or can do. Grades are communication, not compensation. Steilacoom High School uses a standards-based grading policy. School-wide policy information and documents are available on the high school webpage. In English 9, all scores entered into Skyward are attached to one or more CCSS ELA standards. These standards will be given to students in rubric format. At the end of each semester, a student's final transcript grade will reflect his/her highest scores on each standard measured during that semester. This grading system allows students to clearly see what they do well and in which areas they need additional help and focus. With the standards at the center of daily lessons and all assignments, students will at all times know where they are in relation to the standards and what it takes to get to where they want to be – no surprises at the end of grading periods.

Regarding late work: Good organization and planning are important life skills. Due dates exist in the real world. I expect all work to be turned in on time. If you need extra time on an assignment, make arrangements with me prior to the due date.

Regarding reassessments: If a student would like to demonstrate an improvement in skill by resubmitting or retaking an assessment, he/she must turn in formative work related to that standard and demonstrate at least a proficient level of skill on the formative work. In addition, he/she will need to complete and submit a reassessment request form. This form can be found on my classroom website. All reassessments must be complete before the last week of the semester.

All English Language Arts Common Core State Standards will be assessed on a 4-point scale:

Scale	Correlating Grade	Language
4	A	Exemplary Work. Mastery. (Above Standard)
3	B	Proficient Work. Accomplished. (Meets Standard)
2	C	Emerging Work. Developing. (Approaching Standard)
1	D	Insufficient Work. Basic. (Below Standard)
0	F	No Evidence of Work. Missing. (Well Below Standard)
INC	INC	Incomplete Work. Unfinished. (No Basis for Judgement)

Vocabulary

Students will study academic and literary vocabulary words that directly connect to and stem from the Embedded Assessments and texts in each unit of study.

SpringBoard sequences academic vocabulary words within instructional material to strategically and systematically build vocabulary knowledge both vertically and horizontally. The academic vocabulary words are introduced, reinforced and refined throughout the unit and/or year; students will document their progression toward mastery in their Vocabulary Notebook and Unit Reflections.

Student and Teacher Responsibilities

- Be Prompt
- Be Prepared
- Be Positive
- Be Productive

Supplies Needed for this Class

1. Three-ring binder (can be multi-class)
2. Composition notebook
3. Notebook paper
4. Pens and pencils
5. Highlighters
6. Post-it notes

SHS Policies

Students will review SHS policy in advisory. Here are specific notes:

- **Electronic Devices:** Prepare your electronic device for English class by turning it on Airplane Mode (or off entirely) and placing it in your bag for the period. We may occasionally use personal electronics during class to contribute to our learning.
- **Plagiarism:** The vast majority of students are honest and thoughtful, but there are times when shortcuts seem appealing. Whenever you use someone else's unique ideas or words and pass it off as your own, you are plagiarizing. If you copy your friend's work, you are plagiarizing. If you read an article and paraphrase it without citing the work, you are plagiarizing. If you have any questions about plagiarism, always ask! It's better to cite something when in doubt. All students at SHS will be instructed in the MLA style format for papers and we will learn how to properly cite resources as a class. See the SHS Student Handbook for discipline related to plagiarism.
- **Absences:** All absences require notification by the parent/guardian to the school. Planned absences require a form to be completed and returned to the attendance office. It is important for students to be in class as much as possible. When a student is absent, it is that student's responsibility to access information and stay on track.

Contact Information *(please save!)*

Instructor: Mrs. Kelsey Tretheway Website: <http://www.steilacoom.k12.wa.us/Page/2418>
E-mail: ktretheway@steilacoom.k12.wa.us Phone: (253) 983-2388 (leave a message!)

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Once you have read over the 9th Grade English Language Arts course syllabus, please sign and fill out the following information. Your student will return this page and keep the rest of this syllabus to refer to during the year. I appreciate your time, and look forward to teaching your student this year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kelsey Tretheway

Please fill out, sign and return THIS PAGE of the document as soon as possible.

I have read and understand the policies contained within this document and agree to adhere to them for the duration of this course. I also understand how to contact Mrs. Tretheway if I have any questions.

Student name – printed Student signature Date

Guardian name – printed Guardian signature Date

Phone number _____ E-mail _____

Notes: