

# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature

## Course Syllabus

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**WELCOME TO HIGH SCHOOL AND TO ENGLISH LITERATURE!** It is my hope that during the course of this semester you will gain and develop an understanding of the structure and meaning of works of literature that we will read and study. To gain this understanding your participation and commitment is essential. You **MUST** read in a literature class to gain understanding. You will be required to read in and outside of class. Reading is the key to success in this class.

**Course Objectives:** During the semester you will be able to:

1. Identify the proper usage of the English language through grammatical study.
2. Understand and utilize literary terms in the examination of literature.
3. Develop and expand reading skills.
4. Develop thinking skills through the daily practice of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
5. Expand vocabulary skills through the attainment of SAT advanced words.

**The course load for the term will cover the following units:**

- I. **Literature**
  - A. The Short Story ( A variety of stories will be read)
  - B. Poetry (poems will be read throughout each major unit of study)
  - C. Nonfiction (Various non-fiction works will be studied)
  - D. Drama – Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
  - E. The Novel – To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

In addition to the literature that will be read during the semester, we will also focus on grammar skills and writing. Students will be assigned work in their grammar workbooks twice a week supplement what has been gone over in class. These assignments will be graded and recorded as class participation and homework grades. Students will also learn the methods and practices of writing a standard, five-paragraph essay. Focus will be on technical and persuasive essays. Students will have on average 4 major writing assignments.

### **Writing Journal:**

All students will be responsible for keeping a daily writing reflections journal in a composition style notebook. Topics will be assigned at the beginning of each class session and students are encouraged to write in their journals daily. Journals will be taken up every other week and graded for the number of entries that have been responded to and will be recorded as a class participation grade. These journal topics are assigned to give the students an opportunity to express their thoughts and beliefs on a number of issues. Grades are given for participation only and not on content or opinions shared in the context of the journal. All entries should be dated and should include the topic on the very first line of the page.

### **SAT Vocabulary Development:**

Students will be exposed to key SAT terms throughout the course of the semester through weekly quizzes on word lists. Homework will also be assigned twice weekly for the words given. Students are expected to complete these assignments and they will be graded and included in their overall homework average. Test format will vary measuring spelling as well as word usage. These tests will be given each Friday unless otherwise assigned by the teacher.

### **Homework, Quizzes, and Exams:**

Homework will be assigned three to four times a week and will always be checked. Homework is only utilized to effectively reinforce skills covered in class. Students will be given pop quizzes at any given time. All major exams will be announced two to three days in advance. A review will always occur prior to an exam. Students are encouraged to utilize their homework as a means of practice and study aides. There will be times when some questions on exams and quizzes may come from homework assignments given earlier in the nine weeks.

### **Writing Assignments:**

Writing tasks will occur throughout the semester. Students will be expected to participate in the various modes of writing. Because students are evaluated on the process of writing, all prewriting strategies including outlining, rough drafts, final drafts, and works cited pages will be submitted to the instructor. MLA style will be used in all writings including parenthetical citations as well as works cited pages. All components of the writing process must be turned in with all assignments in order to receive full credit. All formal assignments must be typed. It is recommended, but not required for the students to have their own copy of the MLA Handbook to use as a resource to assist them in completing their writing assignments. The students will have 4 major writing assignments during the semester.

### **Grading Policy:**

The policy for grading is as follows: **Major tests** count **40%** of the overall grade, the **End of Course Test** in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature will count **15%** of the overall average. **Homework** will count **15%**, Class **Participation** will count **10%** and **projects and essays** will count **30%**.

The instructor reserves the right to adjust the grading scale as the needs of the program requires.

Suggested Supplies for this Course:

1.5 inch binder  
Subject dividers  
Blue or Black ink pens only  
Pencils  
One yellow highlighter  
5x8 lined index cards  
Flash drive to save work done on the computers  
One Composition book to be used as a journal.

**Class Rules** are posted in the classroom and it is expected that these rules will be followed by each student. The rules are to ensure that every student has the opportunity and the right to learn while in the classroom. Students will be given a bathroom pass to use in case of an emergency. This pass gives them a chance to leave the room 3 times during the course of the nine week period. If the student does not use the pass and remains in class during the nine weeks, the student may drop one of his/her lowest grades. It is important that students limit the amount of time they are outside the classroom. This method is used as an incentive to the students. No student will be denied the right to use the restroom or visit the school nurse unless requests become habitual. At that time a phone call home will be made so the issue may be discussed.

Student Signature:

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