

MERIT Honors Ninth Grade Literature and Composition Syllabus

Instructor: Mrs. Cartright

Phone: 225-4394

E-mail: rcartright@thomas.k12.ga.us

Website: <http://www.thomas.k12.ga.us/olc/class.aspx?id=1686&s=419>

Reading is hard, but hard is necessary; writing is hard, but hard is necessary...

Course Description:

Ninth Grade Honors Language Arts centers on reading, researching, writing, analyzing, and speaking skills as dictated by the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards. A copy of these standards can be found in the Beginning of Year Info folder located on the class website. Students will take the Ninth Grade Literature/Composition End-of-Course Test (EOCT) on May 19, 2014.

Course Outline/Instructional Units (including possible texts):

First Nine Weeks: Human Rights Around the World—Symbols of Alienation

Texts: *Night* by Elie Wiesel; *Maus I* by Art Spiegelman; *Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka; various poems and informational articles

Writing Focus: Informational

Speaking and Language

Other Topics Covered: rhetorical devices (diction, syntax, tone, imagery); appeals (ethos, pathos, logos); vocabulary (Greek and Latin roots; academic vocabulary)

Second Nine Weeks: Trials and Triumphs—The Hero's Journey

Texts: *The Odyssey* by Homer; *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton (selected myths); "Sonnet 60" and "The Seven Ages of Man" by William Shakespeare; "Penelope" by Dorothy Parker; various informational texts

Writing Focus: Argumentative

Speaking and Language

Other Topics Covered: rhetorical devices (diction, syntax, tone, imagery); appeals (ethos, pathos, logos); vocabulary (Greek and Latin roots; academic vocabulary)

Third Nine Weeks: Paradoxes of Life and Language

Texts: *Romeo and Juliet* and selected sonnets by William Shakespeare; *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain (excerpts); various informational texts

Writing Focus: Informational and Argumentative

Speaking and Language

Other Topics Covered: rhetorical devices (diction, syntax, tone, imagery); appeals (ethos, pathos, logos); vocabulary (Greek and Latin roots; academic vocabulary); review for the Georgia Grade Eight Writing Assessment

Fourth Nine Weeks: Defining Courage

Texts: *The Education of Little Tree* by Asa Carter; "The Scarlet Ibis" by James Thurber; *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros; "Letters from a Birmingham Jail" by Martin Luther King, Jr.; various informational texts

Writing Focus: Informational

Speaking and Language

Other Topics Covered: rhetorical devices (diction, syntax, tone, imagery); appeals (ethos, pathos, logos); vocabulary (Greek and Latin roots; academic vocabulary)

Major Assignments for the Year:

- At least one research assignment per nine weeks
- At least one technology-based project (PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.) per nine weeks

On-Going Assignments:

- Articles of the Week (assigned on Monday; due the following Monday)
- Daily Grammar Practice (DGP) each week; quiz after every three weeks
- Self-Selected Independent Reading (one independent reading book project per nine weeks)
- Reading Check Quizzes (given after at-home reading is assigned)
- Novel/Text Tests and Quizzes
- Vocabulary Quizzes
- Various Genres of Writing (some short, some extended, some timed, some long-term)
- Responses to Various Topics via Edmodo(our online educational "social network")

Homework Expectations: Homework will be assigned on a regular basis. Students are expected to complete and return all homework on time.

Behavioral Expectations: Students will be expected to follow all classroom and school-wide rules as dictated by the student handbook.

Grading (follows the TCCHS ninth grade English department policy):

- Daily Assignments 20%
- Quizzes/Minor Essays 30%
- Tests/Major Projects and Essays 50%

NOTE: For students enrolled in grade nine for the first time on July 1, 2011 or after, the End-of-Course Test (EOCT) counts as 20% of the final grade.

****According to the TCMS Make-Up Work Policy, work turned in late will be penalized 10 points. All missing work will be given a zero after the five-day grace period.**

****Plagiarism or cheating of any kind on any assignment will result in a grade of zero for the assignment with no opportunity for a redo.**

****Mrs. Cartright reserves the right to change the syllabus at any time for the benefit of students.**

Scan this QR code to access the class website!

