

PETERS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

CORE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

ENGLISH HONORS GRADE 10

For each of the sections that follow, students may be required to understand, apply, analyze, evaluate or create the particular concepts being taught.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is specifically designed as an accelerated program in language arts skills. Selections of world literature, from pre-Biblical through classical and medieval to twentieth-century works, provide the academic focus. This advanced program is distinguished by the large volume of reading, the length of the selections studied, and the amount of writing required. Required summer reading will be assessed upon entrance to the course. Students will read designated literary works during the summer prior to sophomore year and will complete an assessment during the first weeks of school.

STUDY SKILLS:

WRITING

- identify and practice the steps of the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing) as students compose creative, narrative, expository, and analytical essays
- apply grammatical skills in written work focusing on correct usage of verb tense, punctuation, and style
- utilize MLA guidelines in preparing works

READING

- identify significant elements in the literary traditions of old world civilizations, especially commonalities in form, characterization, plot, and theme
- compare literary works on the basis of form, structure, and content
- identify and evaluate the effective use of literary devices in given works
- demonstrate an increase in the scope of vocabulary

MAJOR UNIT THEMES:

1. WORLD MYTHS AND FOLKTALES

- compare and contrast the purposes and elements of myths and folktales
- analyze origin myths and tales of heroic quests from different cultures
- recognize common archetypes in the oral traditions of different cultures
- interpret and respond to myths and folktales both orally and in writing

2. THE AFRICAN LITERARY TRADITION

- identify literary and cultural contributions of principle African civilizations

- recognize the function and importance of the oral tradition in African literature
- interpret and respond to African literature both orally and in writing

3. THE ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST

- gain an overview of Mesopotamian culture, philosophy, and history
- read excerpts of a Mesopotamian epic and analyze the qualities of its hero
- analyze the literature of the ancient Hebrews, including Old Testament narratives and psalms
- examine the influence of ancient Hebrew ideas and writings on western civilization

4. GREEK LITERATURE

- gain an overview of ancient Greek literature and thought
- recognize the influence of ancient Greece on western civilization
- identify the names, attributes, and selected narratives associated with the major Greek and deities
- understand the conventions of and analyze the plot elements and themes in an ancient Greek epic

5. INDIAN LITERATURE

- gain an overview of classical Indian literature
- define the Hindu concepts of dharma, karma, the caste system, and reincarnation, and identify their influence on Indian culture
- understand the elements of the Indian epic and the epic hero
- recognize the emergence of Buddhism and its key concepts

6. CHINESE AND JAPANESE LITERATURES

- evaluate the contribution of Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism to Chinese literature
- analyze the structure, imagery, and themes of Chinese poetry and the main ideas of Chinese maxims, anecdotes, and biography
- gain an understanding of Japanese literature and of the historical and cultural influences on its development
- interpret examples of Japanese poetry and prose
- identify the use of poetic devices used in Chinese and Japanese poetry

7. PERSIAN AND ARABIC LITERATURES

- recognize how Islam has shaped the culture and literature in the Middle East
- identify the oral and written traditions in Persian and Arabic literatures
- interpret and respond to Persian and Arabic literatures both orally and in writing

8. THE MIDDLE AGES

- analyze the influence of feudalism, the Christian Church, courtly love, and the rise of the middle class in medieval literature
- recognize the elements of the heroic epic and the romance
- interpret and respond to medieval literature both orally and in writing

9. THE RENAISSANCE

- interpret a Shakespearean tragedy
- recognize the dramatic structure of a play
- analyze the stylistic elements of Shakespearean drama

10. INDEPENDENT READING

- engage in self-selected reading for pleasure
- read a variety of texts including fiction and non-fiction
- use written language to present information and ideas in a clear, concise manner

11. LIBRARY RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

- differentiate among various scholarly resources as to amount and kinds of detail, levels of analysis, and suitability to assignment
- employ library reference materials to find resources for research projects
- use various kinds of technology as both research and presentation tools

MATERIALS:

Text: *World Literature*. Third Edition. HRW. 2001. (Imprint 2003)

Supplemental: Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. New York: HRW, 1958.
Beah, Ishmael. *A Long Way Gone*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007
Hesse, Hermann. *Siddhartha*. New York: Bantam Books, 1951.
Homer. *The Odyssey*. W.H.D. Rouse, translator. New York: Mentor Books.
Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. New York: Warner Books, 1960.
Potok, Chaim. *The Chosen*. New York: HRW, 1967.
Shakespeare, William. *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*. HRW
Biography (student selection)
Historical Fiction (student selection)

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