

British Literature

Period 1

Mrs. Rebecca Lahey-Scott

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to help students develop critical thinking skills as we analyze and discuss British Literature. We will be addressing all forms of literacy, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Each unit will have a number of short activities and assignments to check for understanding and to practice skill development. At the end of the unit, there will be a final assessment (paper, test, speech or project).

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

It is expected that each student comes to class prepared for that day's lesson and is engaged to learn, while being respectful of his/her teacher and classmates.

Because this is an elective class, we will come up with the classroom expectations together. Including expectations for the teacher, student and peers.

Plagiarism and Cheating

You would be upset if someone stole your ideas and used them as their own, so do not do it to someone else. Plagiarism and cheating is completely unacceptable. If you do, you will have a mandatory meeting with myself and your parents about your actions. Afterwards, you are required to redo and hand-write the assignment for partial grade. **JUST DON'T DO IT.**

Retake Policy:

- Students are allowed to retake or revise Final Writing/Presentation Assignments/Test **one time**, if they are unhappy with their grade. However, the worth of the score can only reach 90%.

British Literature: There Are Many Perspectives

Unit 1: *the Exeter Book* (Old English)

- We will read and analyze different poems in the Exeter Book, as we learn about the Old English time period and discuss why the poem is still read today.
 - There will be a small test at the end of the unit, to show students' understanding of the material.

Unit 2: *Love's Labour's Lost* (Early Modern English)

- We will read and discuss Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*, focusing on the theme of oppositions: men and women, passion and reason, civilization and nature.
- At the end of the unit, students will create their own director's notes for the play.
Including:
 - Play Poster (Advertisement)
 - Costume
 - Storyboard
 - Casting
 - Setting
 - Lighting
 - Music
 - Explanations of each decision will be written out in a Director's Notebook
- Extra Fun Field Trip!
 - After we read through and discuss the play, we will be attending the American Players Theater Production of *Love's Labour's Lost* in Spring Green, Wisconsin.

Unit 3: *the Canterbury Tales* (Middle English)

- We will read, discuss and analyze various characters of the Canterbury Tales, specifically looking at hidden perspectives and characteristics.
- We will split into groups and read specific characters' tales for their use of satire and Middle English themes of chivalry, betrayal, perception and love.
 - Groups will present on their tale to the rest of the class.
- There will be a test on the various characters and tales, to show students' understanding of satire and theme.

Unit 4: *Romantic (not the mood) Poetry*

- We will read a variety of poetry written by the Keats-Shelley Circle (yes, the husband of the writer of Frankenstein) during the romantic era, looking at the themes of nature, voice and anti-society.
 - Lord Byron, Percy Shelley, William Blake, John Keats, William Wordsworth
 - At the end of the unit, students will analyze an individual poem and present on the importance of its themes.

Unit 5: *A Christmas Carol* (Victorian Era)

- Students will learn about the Victorian Era of Britain by reading Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, focusing on the theme of greed, reflection and second chances.
- During the reading, students will practice annotating the work and critically thinking about the text and why the story is retold through generations.
 - There will be a small test at the end of the unit to assess understanding, reading comprehension, and analysis.

Unit 6: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (Today)

- Students will read J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer Stone*, focusing on mythology, vocabulary and plot development.
- During the reading, students will engage in different activities that immerse themselves in the fantasy world and help their ability to find relevance in fiction and reading.

Final Assessment

- At the end of the semester, students will use all of their knowledge from the class and compose a thesis statement exploring a specific reoccurring part of British literature. Such as: themes, plots, settings, tones, characters, conflict, resolution, symbolism, etc.