

Fall Semester

English 9

Course Information

Mr. Mattix

Purpose

English 9 provides many opportunities to explore literary concepts in a variety of genres. The Enduring Understandings and Essential Questions reflect this focus, create an underlying purpose and structure for the course, and, at the same time, emphasize the development of critical reading, writing, and thinking skills.

"Man invented language in order to hide his meaning."

-- Voltaire, 19th Century French Philosopher

Literature and the words that make up language are mysterious, magical, and amazingly powerful. This class will explore both the literal world of words, and, as indicated in the quote above, the figurative world. In other words, we will explore not only what each text tells its readers on the surface but also what lies underneath the surface. The multiple layers of meaning are what give literature its mystery, magic, and power.

Enduring Understandings

- During a lifetime people often face the unknown and the unfamiliar.
- Standing on one's own requires inner strength and self knowledge.
- Realizing unexpected truths and dealing with the consequences are critical life experiences.
- Both friends and enemies have the power to create conflict in our lives.
- In both life and literature, people face not only difficult choices but also the consequences of those choices.
- Rewards and responsibilities accompany the ties that bind us to friends, family, and the world.
- When poetry is properly digested by a critical reader it engages the reader's intellect, stimulates the reader's imagination, and evokes the reader's emotions.

Essential Questions

- What factors enables people to face the unknown successfully?
- How does literature help a reader gain self knowledge and assert independence?
- Why do writers use the unexpected in their stories? How can literature prepare readers to handle the unexpected?
- Are we are brothers' keepers? How does literature reflect life and provide insights into the conflicts and challenges that we face?
- Why do writer's use irony and ambiguity in their stories?
- How does the proper understanding of symbolism help readers appreciate literature's multiple layers of meaning?

- How does poetry transcend the boundaries of time and place? What effect do literary devices have on the reader?

Class Expectations

1. **Respect!!!** This refers to respect between teacher-student as well as between students.
2. **Effort** from everyone in all tasks given in and out of class.
3. **Motivation** from all students to want to learn and improve their English skills.
4. **Promptness** at all times. Tardiness will not be tolerated, ever.
5. **Preparation** at all times. Students are expected to bring all required materials to each class.
6. **Participation.**
7. **No food or drink** (water is permitted).
8. **No music, no hats/hoods, no sunglasses, and no cell phones.**
9. **Listen** to others carefully before making your contribution.
10. **Humor**—no one is permitted to take themselves too seriously in my class.

Materials

- 3-ring binder
- 5 subject dividers
- Standard 8 ½' x 11" lined paper (no spiral pads)
- Black and blue pens
- #2 pencils
- Independent reading book (a small portion of each week will be devoted to independent reading with a private meeting between teacher and student to discuss the reading will be scheduled upon completion of the book.)

Binder Organization

- Warm-ups
- Class Notes
- Vocabulary/Course Terms
- Classwork
- Class Notes

Grading

Grading will be based upon the standard grading scale:

A = 93-100, B = 85-92, C = 77-84, D = 70-76, F = Below 70

Grading opportunities will be available in the following areas:

Class participation, Class work, Homework, Quizzes, Tests, Essays, Research Papers, and Special Projects.

The **final grade** will be determined by the average of the four marking periods (20%) each, midterm (10%), and final exam (10%). Students must earn a minimum of either a .75 or a 70% average in order to pass.

Parents' Role

Parents are asked to encourage their children to perform to the best of his/her ability. I invite parents to become active members of the learning process so that I may best meet the needs of each student.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Contact Information

Both students and parents should feel free to contact me anytime for any reason. My contact information is as follows:

michael.mattix@redclay.k12.de.us

or

(302) 651-2626 ext. 265