



**Read. Write. Repeat.
Literacy Matters!**

The new State Standards for English Language Arts (<http://www.corestandards.org/>) are significantly more rigorous than the previous curriculum. Expectations for reading and writing are much more challenging: Students are expected to understand and analyze far more complicated text than in the past, reading-level (lexile) standards are greatly increased, and the elements of argumentation are now included in the writing standards. This means that students should be doing a substantial amount of reading *on their own time*. All English classes at Fairfield encourage and require students to read, including this one, and there will be a very specific reading schedule. This will be the first time many students have had to consistently complete reading assignments on such a schedule, and those who ignore the reading will struggle in this class. None of the reading options are unreasonable or outrageous, so any willing student will be able to complete them without a problem, but it will require a commitment to complete the reading on schedule. Also, the new state writing standards call for more writing of a more sophisticated nature: formal argumentation and analysis. It is important that students participate, question, and share ideas clearly in their writing. Argumentative writing is based on logic and the search for what is true, not just persuasive. It requires a depth of consideration somewhat deeper than what was required in the previous curriculum. The end-of-level assessments (CRTs) this year are no longer just multiple-choice tests; they will require students to illustrate evidence of thinking through constructed responses that involve writing, so students will be doing a great deal of writing in this class.

Attendance/Citizenship

Regular attendance is crucial. Be in class every day!

- √ Students must be in their assigned seats at the tardy bell and must remain in class until the final bell.
- √ Excessive absence or tardiness will result in loss of citizenship credit. (See school attendance policy.)
- √ Failure to follow the classroom policy (described below) will also result in loss of citizenship credit.
- √ A student may make up lost citizenship credit *at my discretion* only if the student meets with me *at least one week before the end of the grading period* and completes the make-up requirements.

****Athletes, cheerleaders, and officers should NOT take this class during a period they will miss to attend sporting events and/or extracurricular activities. English 9 is a core requirement for high school credit.***

Class Supplies

These must be brought to class every day!

- ☺ Writing Paper (with lines)
- ☺ Notebook/Folder/Handouts
- ☺ Blue or Black Pen
- ☺ Assigned Reading Book
- ☺ Homework (completed)
- ☺ Questions to Ask
- ☺ Ideas to Contribute

The Massive Purple Text

When/If textbooks are assigned, they should remain at home. We have a set at school for classroom use.

Classroom Policy: Personal Responsibility

Students are responsible for their own work, their own behavior, and their own interactions with others. This requires three things:

Respect, Cooperation, and Honesty

Students are expected to exhibit these qualities.

Cheating: Any attempt to earn academic credit without engaging in the intended learning process is cheating. Examples include but are not limited to copying another's work, allowing another to copy your work, plagiarism (submitting writing, electronically or printed, that has been copied from any other source), and using book summaries like Cliff's Notes and Shmoop instead of reading the original texts of assigned books. Cheaters will receive a "U" in citizenship for the term and lose all credit for the assignment in question. *Do not cheat!*

Life's Great Equations

Freedom = Responsibility

Choice = Consequence

With Freedom comes Responsibility, and with Choice comes Consequence. Those who accept responsibility for their freedom and accept the consequences of their choices will succeed in this class.

Homework/Reading

Students will sometimes have homework. The amount depends on what we are working on in class, how much the student finishes during class or Intervention time, and whether or not s/he has procrastinated on a long-term task. **Reading, however, is always an assignment!** Even if no homework is due, all English students always have a reading assignment to complete on their own time. *Literacy matters!*

Grading

- √ Grades are calculated as a percentage of possible points.
- √ Points are assigned based on evidence of learning, *not* just completion. (quality of writing, completion of reading, participation, and test scores = evidence of learning)
- √ ***A student's objective should be LEARNING, not grades – but I am required to assign grades; therefore, I will try to ensure that grades in this class reflect LEARNING. If a student does not turn in assignments, I have no evidence of learning and therefore cannot issue a passing grade.***

Grade Scale

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| A = 95-100% | C = 74-76% |
| A- = 91-94% | C- = 70-73% |
| B+ = 88-90% | D+ = 67-69% |
| B = 84-87% | D = 64-66% |
| B- = 80-83% | D- = 60-63% |
| C+ = 77-79% | F = below 60% |

Resources

Book List

English classes may use these books:

The Pigman by Paul Zindel
Nothing but the Truth by Avi
Mythology by Edith Hamilton
The Odyssey by Homer
Romeo and Juliet by Shakespeare
Spoon River Anthology by E.L. Masters
Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt
The Man Who Was Poe by Avi
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
Rumble Fish by S.E. Hinton
Bud Not Buddy by C. P. Curtis
Call of the Wild by Jack London
The Chosen by Chaim Potok
The Scarlet Pimpernel by Emma Orczy
Goodbye Vietnam by Gloria Whelan
And Then There Were None by A. Christie
Losing Joe's Place by Gordon Korman
A Light in the Forest by Conrad Richter

Online Resources

Students may be required to maintain the following web-based accounts:

Utah Write: <https://www.utahwrite.com>

Wiki: <http://thompson-9th-2013.wikispaces.com/>

Online environments are private and strictly monitored.

Movie List

These movies (or short clips) may be viewed in class:

Meet the Olympians
Hercules
Shakespeare by Miramax
Shakespeare: District Video Clips
Shakespeare: Biography
To Kill a Mockingbird
Fahrenheit 451
The Odyssey
Romeo and Juliet
Taming of the Shrew
The Cask of Amontillado
Terror of the Soul: Poe Biography
Various Short Stories on Video

Late Work/Extra Credit

Assignments not turned in on the due date are late. Late credit is ½ of the total points for the first week, and it drops after that amount of time, depending on the assignment. If the student was legitimately absent on the due date and the assignment is turned in upon the student's return, the lateness will be excused and full credit given, but *it is the student's responsibility to get and complete assignments missed due to absence*. Extra credit may be offered only to students who have completed all the regular class work. If a student's grade is suffering because s/he failed to turn in assignments, s/he must complete the missing work (for late credit) before requesting extra credit work.

Classroom Website: <http://wolfmanenglishteacher.com>

Assignments, schedules, links, and projects students will complete for this class are available on the class website. Many assignments will be Internet-based and will be submitted electronically.

This resource is the best way for students and parents to keep track of what is happening in class.

E-mail: mrthompson@dmail.net

Have a great year!

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