



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

The DESK (Davis Essential Skills and Knowledge) standards for English Language Arts (<http://www.davis.k12.ut.us/Page/50617>) are more rigorous than the previous state curriculum. Students are expected to understand and analyze more complicated text, and reading-level expectations are increased. To meet these expectations, **students should be doing a substantial amount of reading on their own time.** All English classes at Fairfield encourage and require students to read (in class and independently), and in this class the reading must be completed on fairly specific schedule. Simply put, students who refuse to read outside of class will struggle. Any willing student could complete the independent reading requirements of this class without a problem, but it will require a commitment to read regularly. It is school policy that students carry a reading book to all classes, and there are opportunities during the school day for students to read quietly, but **parents should see students reading at home on a regular basis.** In terms of writing expectations, the DESK standards call for writing of a more sophisticated nature: formal argumentation and analysis based on complex literary and informational texts. Students must be able to comprehend articles from all subject areas, draw conclusions, make comparisons, and formulate coherent written arguments in response. It is no longer just a question of what is entertaining or persuasive but of what can be proven true with warranted logic. Year-end tests (now called SAGE) are no longer merely multiple-choice comprehension quizzes, nor are they all administered at the end of the year. SAGE requires students to write multiple essays on topics from all subject areas, and the writing section could be administered as early as February. **Students in this class will practice writing every day.**

Academic Behaviors/Attendance/Citizenship

Students are expected to come to class ready to learn. Failure to engage in these academic behaviors will result in loss of citizenship credit.

- ✓ Attend class every day*, and be in assigned seat at the tardy bell.
- ✓ Remain in class until the final bell. *Do not line up by the door before the final bell rings.*
- ✓ Be prepared with pen/pencil, notebook, paper, reading book, and completed homework.
- ✓ Pay attention, follow instructions, and stay on task. *Do not put away materials until the final bell.*
- ✓ Complete and turn in assignments (including assigned reading and homework) on time.
 - Note: Late work is a citizenship issue. More than one late assignment will negatively impact a student's citizenship grade.
- ✓ Abide by the Classroom Policy (see below).

Lost citizenship credit may be made up only if the student meets with me at least one week before the end of the term, discontinues the problem behavior, and completes make-up requirements.

**Athletes, cheerleaders, and officers should NOT take this class during 4th or 8th period because they will miss class time to attend sporting events and extracurricular activities. English 9 is a core requirement for high school credit, and students cannot afford to be absent for reasons other than illness.*

Class Supplies

These must be brought to class every day!

☺ **English Notebook**

- ✓ Hardcover 3-ring binder (1½")
- ✓ Five (5) section divider tabs
- ✓ Writing Paper (with lines)
- ✓ *This notebook is only for English, and the entire thing will be turned in periodically. Don't put material from other classes in the English Notebook.*

☺ **Blue or Black Pen**

☺ **Assigned Reading Book**

☺ **Homework (completed)**

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. *Please don't 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, and whether or not s/he has procrastinated on a long-term task. Students who do not turn in homework on time will be assigned to Intervention and/or Lunch & Learn. Even on days no written homework is due, students always have an independent reading assignment to complete on their own time. **Reading is always an assignment!**

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 make 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
Mythology by Edith Hamilton
The Odyssey by Homer
Romeo and Juliet by Shakespeare
Spoon River Anthology by E.L. Masters
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
Treasure Island by Robert L. Stevenson
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
Moby Dick by Herman Melville*
Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Rumble Fish by S.E. Hinton
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
*Just seein' who's payin' attention!

Online Resources

Utah Compose (utahcompose.com)
Students will submit weekly essays/revisions.

Wikispaces (thompson-9th-2016.wikispaces.com)
Students will maintain a wiki account that will be used for various creative and collaborative assignments.

Movie List

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

Meet the Olympians
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 literature-based films
and (G-rated) video clips

Extra Credit

Extra credit may be offered only to students who have completed all the regular class work. It is the student's responsibility to get and complete missing work *before* requesting extra credit and to do so far enough in advance that there is time to complete the extra credit assignment. Extra credit will require students to use and show understanding of skills learned in class, i.e., there will always be reading and writing involved, and credit will be given based on the quality of the work. Extra credit will never account for more than about two percent (2%) of a grade, so there should not be an expectation that last-minute extra points will significantly change a final grade.

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

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

E-mail: mrthompson@dsmail.net