



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

The objectives of this course are outlined in the DESK (Davis Essential Skills and Knowledge) standards for English Language Arts: <http://www.davis.k12.ut.us/Page/50617>. Students are expected to understand and analyze complicated texts within a grade-appropriate reading range. To meet these expectations, **students should be doing a substantial amount of book reading on their own time**. English classes at Fairfield encourage and require students to read books (in class and independently), and for this class the reading must be completed on fairly specific schedule. Students who refuse to read books 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 books 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 books at home on a regular basis**. The DESK writing standards call for formal argumentation and analysis based on complex literary and informational texts. Students must be able to draw conclusions, make comparisons, and formulate coherent written responses. Formative writing assessments will occur throughout the year, and the summative writing assessment will take place in the spring. **We will practice writing every day**. So, what do we do in this class? **Read. Write. Repeat.**

**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 (below) and all the provisions of the school disclosure/handbook.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> 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
- ☺ Reading Book
- ☺ Homework (completed)

***The Slim Black Volume***

*Collections 9 (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)*  
We have a class set for school use, and the online text is available for home 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 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  
*A Separate Peace* by John Knowles  
*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  
*The Yearling* by Marjorie Rawlings  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee  
*Rumble Fish* by S.E. Hinton  
*The Pearl* by John Steinbeck  
*The Chosen* by Chaim Potok  
*Night* by Elie Wiesel  
*Goodbye Vietnam* by Gloria Whelan  
*And Then There Were None* by A. Christie  
*Losing Joe's Place* by Gordon Korman  
*Poems and Stories* by Edgar A. Poe  
*You Are NOT Special* by David McCullough

\*Just secin' who's payin' attention!

### Classroom Website

[wolfmanenglishteacher.com](http://wolfmanenglishteacher.com)

### Utah Compose

[utahcompose.com](http://utahcompose.com)

### Online Text

<https://my.hrw.com/>

### Wikispaces

[thompson-9th-2018.wikispaces.com](http://thompson-9th-2018.wikispaces.com)

### **Movie List**

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

*Meet the Olympians*  
*Shakespeare Biography*  
*Shakespeare: District Video Clips*  
*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 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 always involve reading and writing, and the amount of credit will be given based on the quality of 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](mailto:mrthompson@dsmail.net)