



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

Last year, the Davis School District began the transition to the new State Standards for English Language Arts. The new standards are quite specific and rigorous, particularly in the area of reading. Students are expected to understand and analyze far more complicated text than they have previously, and lexile (reading level) expectations are greatly increased. I do not expect this will be a problem for students in Honors English, but it does mean that students in this class will be doing a substantial amount of reading, much of it on their own time. All English classes at Fairfield encourage and require students to read, but for this class, the reading assignments are more specific, and they come with an equally specific reading schedule. This will be the first time many students have had to consistently complete reading assignments on a schedule, like what will be expected in high school and college. While they may not find all the readings captivating, students still need to give them their thoughtful attention. The new state standards also call for significantly more writing of a more sophisticated nature: formal argumentation and analysis. Honors classes will therefore require more thoughtful consideration of material, higher quality finished products, and a strong focus on class discussion. While this may be daunting for some students, it is important that they participate, question, and share ideas both in writing and aloud. For those who do, this class will be a rich and rewarding academic experience. More details about the new state standards are here: <http://www.corestandards.org/>.

Attendance/Citizenship

You have to pass this class to graduate from high school, but you can't do that if you aren't here. Make it a priority to be here 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 assignments.

**Athletes, cheerleaders, and officers should NOT take this class 4th or 8th period.*

Supplies

These must be brought to class every day!

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

The Massive Purple Text

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

Classroom Policy

Personal Responsibility

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

- Respect***
- Cooperation***
- Honesty***

Students are expected to exhibit these qualities.

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 do very well 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 time, and whether or not s/he has procrastinated on a big project.

Reading, however, is an ongoing assignment! Even if no homework is due, students still have a certain amount of reading to complete on their own and should read daily.

Grading

- √ Grades are calculated as a percentage of possible points.
- √ Points are assigned based on evidence of learning, *not* just completion. (quality of writing, 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

Honors classes at Fairfield may study these works of literature:

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
Anthem by Ayn Rand
Animal Farm by George Orwell
Profiles in Courage by John F. Kennedy
The Pigman by Paul Zindel
Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury
Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury
The Illustrated Man by Ray Bradbury
The Yearling by Marjorie Rawlings
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Romeo and Juliet by Shakespeare
Mythology by Edith Hamilton
The Odyssey by Homer
Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt
The Man Who Was Poe by Avi
Spoon River Anthology by E.L. Masters
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
Nothing but the Truth by Avi
Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

Movie List

These movies (or short clips) may be viewed in class in accordance with district policy:

Meet the Olympians
Clash of the Titans
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 within two days of 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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