



English 11 Accelerated Course Syllabus

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Course Overview

English 11 is focused on American Literature. Students will study fiction and nonfiction texts to learn about the world and ourselves. Through discussing and writing about a variety of texts, they will be able to understand the many benefits of reading and writing including:

- Understanding ourselves and other people's perspectives better
- Learning about other places and time periods
- Making insightful connections between texts
- Standing up for and working toward positive changes in the world
- Evaluating and recognizing valuable information
- Being entertained and escaping from the stresses of life temporarily
- Learning new vocabulary and strengthening grammatical skills

The course will culminate in a project that connects the texts we read in class with the concepts related to the importance and value of reading.

Essential Questions

By the end of this class, students will be able to answer the following questions about literature and why it is important to read.

- What themes are seen across literary movements in American Literature?
- Why are reading and writing important?
- What are the benefits of reading?
- In what ways can we express our understanding of and experiences with a text?
- Why are there so many types of literature and texts?
- What can we gain by writing about our life experiences?
- How can we impact the world with our writing?
- Why should we write about what we read?

Classroom Policies

- ❖ Professionalism: Take responsibility for your actions and treat other people and property

(both peoples' and the school's) with respect.

- ❖ **Participation**: Pay attention, read the directions, join in discussions, complete the readings, and use your time wisely.
- ❖ **Preparedness**: Take care of and keep all necessary materials and learning tools organized to be a successful learner; be sure to bring everything you need to class, every day!
- ❖ **Personal Devices**: Use your electronic devices responsibly (keep them charged, take good care of them, and don't distract yourself or others with them).
- ❖ **Plagiarism**: Do your own work and always cite your sources; see the Student Handbook for the consequences of plagiarism (automatic 0 on the assignment, notification of parents and admin, and 3 days of ISS).

Technology:

Some materials will be posted on Google Classroom for students to access (other than novels not available in digital format). Additionally, some assignments will be turned in via Classroom, Flipgrid, or other digital learning tools. It is imperative that all students join the Classroom, Flipgrid, and Remind groups for my class. If there are any technical issues that impede access to these digital learning tools, please contact me as soon as possible so we can work together to find a solution.

- **Google Classroom**

Period 3 – mgj2mrk

- **Flipgrid**

Links will be posted when projects are assigned



What If You Are Absent

- The daily agenda will be available on Google Classroom. If you are absent, check Google Classroom for the assignments you missed. Check the agenda in the stream on the day for which you were absent.
- Make sure you hand in your excuse to the attendance office - as per the student handbook, students are not permitted to make up work (including tests and quizzes) from days they had illegal absences.
- You have *one week* from the day you were absent to hand in the classwork and/or make up any quizzes or tests you missed. After a week, all assignments will be entered as a 0.
- Assignments introduced before your absence are due immediately upon your return.
- If we begin a project or essay and you miss an in-class work day, your deadline will **not** be extended. If you missed the day the project or essay was assigned, then you will be granted a one-day extension.
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Daily Bell Ringers: Five-minute bell ringers will be assigned daily. Most bellringers will be available in Google Classroom with the exception of grammar assignments which can be found on

the desk in front of the classroom. Completed bell ringers should be dated and kept in a notebook that will be checked periodically.

Bell Ringer Schedule:

Mystery Monday - I will be incorporating a variety of types of bellringers every Monday. It may be a journal prompt, vocab activity, or grammar assignment.

Tuesday Grammar - Slips of paper with a grammar activity will be found on the desk at the front of class.

Wordy Wednesday - Vocabulary assignments related to class reading assignments, SAT words, or general knowledge words.

Think about it Thursday - Deeper journal prompt questions related to the reading assignments. Minimum of 100 words.

Fun Friday - Creative, silly, or fun journal prompts. Minimum of 100 words.

Journal prompts will be posted online for all to access at the start of each day. Your Journal will be expected to follow a certain format.

- The date and the original prompt must be included, followed by your response.
- Journal entries must be written in complete sentences and at least 100 words long (unless noted otherwise).
- Make sure there is a line space between each journal/bell ringer entry.

Free Read Time

Every day, after completing the BR, the first 10 minutes of class will be dedicated to Free Read time. You will be responsible for being prepared with a book to read during this time as well as updating the class Reading Tracker spreadsheet every day. You can read anything you want as long as it is not required reading for another class. You will receive 45 points each marking period as an independent reading grade. Periodic "Status of the Class" checks will be made to determine your active engagement during independent reading. Electronic devices are strictly prohibited during this time and failure to meet this expectation will result in a referral. Use this time to take a break and enjoy the time to just read!!



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How to Pass My Class

It is not hard to pass my English class. However, it is also easy to fail my English class. Your grade is entirely dependent on the amount of effort you put into the work assigned to you. Here are some tips to ensure you earn good grades in English 11 this year.

Do:

- Pay attention and READ THE DIRECTIONS
- Complete your own work
- Turn work in by the due date
- Be positive, look for opportunities to grow
- Show kindness, respect, & open-mindedness
- Put in your best effort
- Ask for help when needed

Don't

- Play on phone/Chromebook during class
- Copy, cheat, or plagiarize
- Take advantage of my flexibility
- Complain about reading & writing in ELA
- Be rude, disrespectful, or pugnacious
- Do the bare minimum
- Give up when things are hard

Tentative Course Schedule/Outline

Unit 1: Learning About Other People, Places, and Times

- Essential Questions:
 - What information can be gained by reading texts written long ago?
 - Why do people write about their own experiences?
 - What statement can we make about the world today through writing?
- Focus Text: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

Unit 2: Sharing Difficult Emotions and Experiences

- Essential Questions:
 - What information can be gained by reading texts written long ago?
 - Why do people write about their own experiences?
 - Why do people want to preserve their experiences for future generations to see?
- Focus Text: Various works by Edgar Allan Poe

Unit 3: Standing Up Against Injustice

- Essential Questions:
 - What authors and literature have had an impact on the world and why?
 - Why do people use literature to speak out against injustice?
 - How can anyone make a change through writing?
- Focus Text: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

Unit 4: Understanding Others' Perspectives and Experiences

- Essential Questions:
 - How can readers grow and learn from reading about the experiences of others?
 - Why do people like reading about other people's experiences, real or fictional?
 - What can we gain by writing about our own experiences - positive or negative?
- Focus Text: *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult

Unit 5: Persuading Others through Our Words

- Essential Questions:
 - Why are words such a powerful force in influencing people?

- How has society as a whole been changed - for the good or bad - through books?
- How can writers intentionally use words to affect individuals and the world?
- Focus Text: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

Unit 6: Inspiring People to Do Better

- Essential Questions:
 - How does literature connect people to one another?
 - In what ways can stories inspire people to be better?
 - Why should we write about life's challenges and joys?
- Focus Text: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Unit 7: Entertainment and Escape

- Essential Questions:
 - Why are there so many different kinds of literature?
 - How does reading help people better handle the challenges of life?
 - What kind of texts do you enjoy reading? Why?
- Focus Text: *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry (film) and Student choice book