

English 1-2
Mrs. Molly Anderson – Room A219

“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.” –Aristotle

We are committed to providing your student with a well-rounded/diverse educational experience, involving a wide variety of topics and relevant social issues encountered in our pluralistic society. In our classrooms, all opinions are valued and critical thinking is expected. The focus of instruction is centered on both the Dubuque Community School District and Iowa State Standards.

Parents and/or guardians are welcome/encouraged to read, view, and discuss material with their student. Core texts are listed on course syllabi located on the school website.

Course Description

This course emphasizes a continuation of the communication skills and strands which are developed in 7th and 8th grade Language Arts. Thematic units covering a variety of genre include non-fiction, short story, novel, poetry, mythology, and an introduction to Shakespeare through Romeo and Juliet. Additionally, reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills are taught in conjunction with each unit of literature. Students will recognize and define multiple literary terms. Students will work on grammar, vocabulary, sentence construction, and writing through expository, personal, literary analysis, comparison and contrast, and research writing.

Alignment to the Iowa Core Curriculum: Instruction, learning, and assessment are built on the 9-10th grade-band expectations of the Iowa Core.

Iowa Core Standards

Standard 1: Reading Strand - Literature

Students will effectively comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and create using a diverse range of appropriately complex print materials.

Standard 2: Reading Strand – Informational Text

Students will effectively comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and create using a diverse range of appropriately complex print materials.

Standard 3: Writing

Students will routinely write to learn and to communicate for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Standard 4: Speaking and Listening

Students will participate effectively in a range of rich, structured conversations, collaborations, and presentations.

Standard 5: Language

Students will apply knowledge of the English language and its conventions when reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Assessments

You will be evaluated in this class through a number of means, including:

- Study guides

- Reading logs
- Journal responses
- Projects and presentations
- Pre and Post tests
- Formal and informal writing assignments
- Class discussions / Socratic circles
- Semester exams

Some assignments will be collected for points, while others will hold a spot in the gradebook merely as information that a formative assessment was completed. Emerging, achieving, extending will be terms used to describe the progression of student learning.

Course Content

Short stories, drama, novels, poetry, non-fiction, grammar, and writing

Instructional Strategies

- Small and large group discussions
- Projects and presentations
- Formal and informal writing activities
- Grammar activities/ sentence structure/ daily practice
- Pre and Post testing
- Socratic Circle discussions
- Peer editing
- Test revisions for partial credit

Resources

You will use the book Literature: The Reader's Choice (Glencoe) to study literature such as short stories, poetry, non-fiction, *The Odyssey* written by Homer and *Romeo and Juliet* written by William Shakespeare. In addition, we will read the following works of literature: *Our America* written by LeAlan Jones and Lloyd Newman, *Speak* written by Laurie Halse Anderson, and *12 Angry Men* written by Reginald Rose. Our units will revolve around central questions. Those questions might include: What is love? What makes you who you are? How do you speak up for yourself?

Expectations

You are expected to be cooperative, respectful, and appropriate in your classroom behavior. You are also expected to be on time, be prepared, and be productive during class. If we encounter problems in the class you will first be talked with individually, next your parents will be called, and finally a write-up will be sent to the Assistant Principal's office. If the offense is extreme, you will immediately be written up and sent to the AP's office. It is also expected that you will not bring food or drink (besides water) into the classroom.

Materials

You will be responsible for bringing the following supplies to class each day: paper, pen and pencil, binder with dividers, book, agenda, and completed homework. You will also

need a standard sized notebook to use for daily journal writing. This notebook will need to be left in the classroom.

Late Work

Students are allowed to turn in up to five late assignments each semester for full credit. In order to receive credit for a late assignment, the student must complete a Late Work Analysis handout (on the front table in the classroom).

Make-up Work

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get your make-up work. Please check the folder for your class period on the table for any handouts / assignments you might have missed. Again, please note on the top of the paper that you were absent.

Tests and Quizzes

Tests will be taken on the day announced. If you are absent the day before a test, expect to take the test the day after you receive the review information. If you are absent the day of a test, expect to take the test the day you return.

Dismissal

You will be in your seat when the bell rings and you will stay seated until you are excused. Similarly, if you wish to leave the room for any reason, you must have your school agenda. Without this agenda, you will not be leaving the room.

Tardies

See your agenda for the school tardy policy. This will be enforced.

Grades

The following is the grading scale:

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|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| A 93-100% | B 83-86% | C 73-77% | D 63-66% |
| A- 90-92% | B- 80-82% | C- 70-72% | D- 60-62% |
| B+ 87-89% | C+ 77-79% | D+ 67-69% | F 59% |

Academic Honesty

When you complete assignments in this class, unless collaboration with classmates was discussed, there is no reason for you to ever have the word for word exact same answers as anyone else in class. If this happens, you will receive a zero on the assignment. Likewise, if you are caught cheating on a test you will have earned a zero for that assignment. Similarly, if you turn in work that came from another source (the Internet, a book, etc.) you will receive no credit for your “work.”

Cell Phones

Cell phones are not to be seen or heard in class. You will be given one warning and if your phone is seen or heard a second time, it will be turned in to the AP's office. If your phone is out during a test, you will receive a zero on the exam.

No-name Work

Please put your name on your work.

Extra Credit

There will be no extra credit in this class; extra credit would not be a reflection of what you learned in class, but a replacement for what should have been done.

Communication Plan

E-mail address: MAnderson@dbqschools.org

School phone: (563) 552-5600

Cell phone: (563) 451-5292

Available for help: Before school, during 5th hour, after school

Please make an appointment so I know when to expect you