

English 1-2

Mrs. Maryjo Williams - Room A213

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"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.

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 Reading, Writing, Listening, and Language Strands.

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.

CONTENT: Short Stories, Drama, Novels, Poetry, Nonfiction, Grammar/Writing

RESOURCES: Textbook: The Reader's Choice (Glencoe)

In addition, we will read the following works of literature:

Romeo and Juliet: William Shakespeare

Lord of the Flies: William Golding

Anthem: Ayn Rand

The Odyssey: Homer

Fahrenheit 451: Ray Bradbury

Optional Texts:

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime: Mark Haddon

Our America: LeAlan Jones and Lloyd Newman

Speak: Laurie Halse Anderson

House on Mango Street: Sandra Cisneros

RAM FAM EXPECTATIONS:

Integrity - Doing the right thing because it's the right thing to do, even if nobody is watching. Owning our behavior, moving on and learning from our mistakes and failures.

Courage - Similar to integrity, it's doing the right thing when everyone is watching.

Respect - having high regard for others and their ideas; being accepting of others and their values.

Engagement - Showing up and doing your part; participating appropriately.

Materials: charged laptop, paper, pen and pencil, binder with dividers or notebook and folder, book, agenda, and completed homework.

Late work will not be accepted. Any homework assigned is intended to practice and improve skills needed for a standard-based assessment. Therefore, students do not gain any benefit by doing assignments late.

Make-up Work: If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get your make-up work. Please check our Canvas classroom or my website for assignments. You will be expected to be prepared upon your return.

IDs should be worn according to the school guidelines.

No cell phones allowed during class.

Grading Scale:

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| A 93-100 | A- 90-92 | B+ 87-89 | B 83-86 | B- 80-82 | |
| C+ 77-79 | C 73-76 | C- 70-72 | D+ 67-69 | D 63-66 | D- 60-62 |