

Honors English 1-2

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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. Students are challenged instructionally, move at a faster pace, read additional novels, and have more homework in comparison to English 1-2. Students are provided enrichment activities and assignments in this course. Units covered include 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 genre 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/Speaking, 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

Our America: Jones and Newman

The House on Mango Street: Sandra Cisneros

Frankenstein: Mary Shelley

The Secret Life of Bees: Sue Monk Kidd

The Odyssey: Homer

Optional Texts: **Speak, Twelve Angry Men**

EXPECTATIONS:

Materials: paper, pen and pencil, binder with dividers, book, agenda, and completed homework.

Late Work: Partial credit may be earned for assignments turned in after the due date.

Make-up Work: If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get your make-up work. Please see me before class for any handouts / assignments you may have missed.

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.

Tardy Policy: Please be in your desk before the bell rings. See your agenda for the school tardy policy. This will be strictly enforced.

Grading Scale:

	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

Extra Help: (Room 217) If you need of extra help with anything in this class, please talk to me to make an appointment before or after school. You are always encouraged to ask questions and to get help when you need it.