

Mrs. Alessandrini
9th Grade Syllabus: English
2009-2010 School Year

Class Website found at
www.shhslions.com
Click on faculty, then
teacher's name

Course Description

This course is intended to promote students' communication skills, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will participate in a wide variety of assignments, activities, and discussions to provide them with opportunities to practice and strengthen these skills.

Literature

Numerous selections of literature will be presented and read throughout the course of the school year. In addition to the assigned reading, students may be required to answer both objective and subjective questions related to the literature, learn related vocabulary, write essays associated with or responses to the literature, or complete an assigned project.

Daily Bell Work

"Dailies"- lessons integrating literature, writing, and grammar skills
"Sentence Diagramming"- a step-by-step approach to learning grammar through diagramming
"Phunny Stuph"- proofreading exercises with a sense of humor

Vocabulary

Each week, words will be assigned on Monday, tests/quizzes, questions, assignments, etc. will be given periodically. These will always be announced. If there is a holiday on Monday, adjustments will be made accordingly. Assignments will be given throughout the week covering the week's words, including, but not limited to, determining words' synonyms and antonyms, and using words correctly in sentences. Additional assignments may also be given.

Writing

Various writing assignments will be given through the course of the school year to practice and polish various types of writing and help students prepare for and succeed in various standardized tests. Every **Thursday** is Writing Workshop Day. On this day students will respond in their journals, which are kept in class and are given point values. Writing assignments will vary in length from 5+ sentences to 5- paragraph essays, to multiple paged papers. Writing assignments will be related to literature selections, vocabulary exercises, and other age-appropriate topics. We will also be focusing on writing complete short and extended response answers.

Books

Literature Book (provided by school)
How To Write A Research Paper Workbook
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
A Separate Peace by John Knowles
Speak by Laurie Anderson
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Additional Novels chosen by student

Additional Reading Requirements

You are required to read and respond to additional novels as part of your English grade. For each quarter, students are required to earn 30 points. For the first quarter all should be earned by November 10. Your midway goal is 15 points by October 6. For the second quarter all points should be earned by January 21. Your midway goal of 15 points should be completed by December 9. For the third quarter all points should be earned by March 26. Your midway goal of 15 points should be completed by February 26. The fourth quarter total points should be completed by June 7. Your midway goal of 15 points should be completed by May 6. You should read a little each day. A list of titles will be posted on the class website or others may be used with teacher's approval.

Supplies

Agenda: Every day and must be open and accessible on your desk or on the floor underneath your desk.
Binder: 1 ½ inch binder with 5 tab dividers with notebook paper.
Pencil/Pen
Marble Composition Book (Journal which will remain in-class)

Binders (5 Tab Dividers)

Dailies- English Writing Workshop Activities

Grammar- anything grammar

Literature- anything literature

Vocabulary- all vocabulary assignments

Writing- any writing assignments and "Phunny Stuph"

- You will need to keep all returned papers in your binder. You should keep them in order by date. Your binder will be checked by way of a scavenger hunt at the end of each quarter. This will count as a grade. Do not clean out your binder till told to do so.

Grading

1. Tests at the end of each section.
2. Periodic quizzes (announced and unannounced)
3. Writing assignments
4. In-class and outside of class projects
5. Homework
6. Class work and Participation

Grades are based on a points system. For the quarter grade, total earned points are divided by total possible points.

Earned points x 100= Quarter grade

Possible points

For the semester: The semester assessment counts as 20% of the grade.

Grades will posted on Churchwerks and will be available to view during designated times. Since your parents will most likely want to know how you are doing, if you write your grade in your agenda and bring it to me before or after class, I will initial your grade.

Behavior and Participation

Disrespect will simply not be tolerated. We will often be working in small groups in a cooperative setting, and you will be asked to participate respectfully and equally with your peers. I do, however, follow a 3 strikes law.

Strike 1: verbal warning

Strike 2: written notice

Strike 3: "Penalty Box"

"Penalty Box" refers to a box of additional assignments that the student must choose from. The assignment is to be completed and turned in the following school day and must be signed by a parent/guardian.

If for whatever reason the offense is great enough the 3 strikes will be skipped and the discipline office will be notified.

THE BELL DOES NOT DISMISS YOU! When the bell rings, I will dismiss you. Do not pack up before the bell rings.

Late/Make-up Work Policy

Late work will not be accepted. Period. If you have an excused absence, you have one day per excused absence to make up work. Homework and in-class assignments make up a large component of your final grade, so it is in your best interest that you complete and turn it all in. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed when you were absent. If you miss a test, you must make it up within one week of your return to school, unless otherwise arranged by myself or you.

I am looking forward to a year that is enjoyable and enlightening for all of us. English class is hard work but rewarding if you are willing to put in the effort.

"Nothing will come of nothing" (Shakespeare, from *King Lear*)