

9th Grade English Language Arts
Syllabus 2016-2017

Instructor: Kate Clark

Contact Information: Phone: 940-995-2532 ext. 264

Email: kate.clark@saintjoisd.net

Conference: Conference: 4th Period, 10:56-11:41 a.m.

Course Overview: This class will be centered on the major literary genres, namely nonfiction, drama, folktales, fiction, and poetry. As we read a variety of literature over the course of the year, students will learn vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and writing styles specific to each genre and will practice those skills through projects and assignments each day. Upon completion of the course, students will have the language skills they need in order to move forward into the worlds of higher education and the workplace as competent, confident communicators.

Textbooks: *Glencoe Literature: Texas Treasures, Course 4*

Class Novels: *Flowers for Algernon* ~ Daniel Keyes

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass ~ Frederick Douglass

The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet ~ William Shakespeare

We may choose to supplement our knowledge of the novels we read by watching one or all of these films in class:

Charlie (1968) **PG**

Romeo and Juliet

Daily Materials: Students are expected to bring the following items to class daily. Coming to class unprepared will result in a tardy.

- Composition notebook (this can be kept in the classroom)
- 3-ring binder
- Textbook/novel
- Pen/pencil
- Red pen/pencil
- Library book

Rules and Expectations:

- 1. Be Respectful**
 - listen and learn when others are speaking
 - treat classmates, classroom, and class materials with courtesy
 - use appropriate language at all times

- 2. Be Responsible**
 - bring all materials with you each day
 - arrive on time to class
 - follow directions

- 3. Be Remarkable**
 - give your best every day
 - encourage your classmates
 - maintain a positive attitude

Grading Scale and Policies: Grades will be based on the student's performance in daily assignments (homework, participation), major assignments (tests, quizzes, projects), and the Accelerated Reading (AR) program. As outlined by district policy, grade weights are as follows:

- Accelerated Reading (AR) – 15%
- Daily Grades – 30%
- Major Grades – 55%

Homework: Any assignment not completed in class will be completed at home, unless otherwise specified. Students will be given adequate time to complete all homework assignments, therefore, late work will be penalized through grade deductions. Please see Routines and Procedures handout for more information on the late policy.

Make-up Work: If a student is absent from class (excused or unexcused) it is his/her responsibility to get missing assignments, notes, or other information. Students will be given one day for each day absent to complete their work.

Chromebooks: Learning to use a computer for research and typing are critical skills in ELAR; however, students will not be allowed to bring Chromebooks into the classroom unless specifically told to do so.

The teacher reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus. Students will be informed of any alterations in advance.

Year at a Glance

*The schedule below is a rough outline of our plan for this school year meant to provide a general idea of the class. The date, order, and/or length of any one topic can (and probably will!) change as we progress through the year.

Fall Semester

Week 1: Introduction to the Class 8/22-8/26

Week 2: Introduction to Literary Genres, Essay Types 8/29-9/2

Week 3: Writing 9/6-9/9

Week 4: Writing 9/12-9/16

Week 5: Writing 9/19-9/23

Week 6: Writing 9/26-9/30 (First 6 weeks ends)

Week 7: Folktale 10/3-10/7

Week 8: Folktale 10/10-10/14

Week 9: Poetry 10/17-10/21

Week 10: Poetry 10/24-10/28

Week 11: Poetry 10/31-11/4 (Second 6 weeks ends)

Week 12: *Romeo and Juliet, Act I* 11/7-11/11

Week 13: *Romeo and Juliet, Act I* 11/14-11/18

Week 14: *Romeo and Juliet, Act I*, Thanksgiving Break 11/21-11/25

Week 15: *Romeo and Juliet, Act I* 11/28-12/2

Week 16: *Romeo and Juliet, Act I*, Prep for Semester Exams, English I EOC Retest 12/5-12/9

Week 17: Semester Exams 12/12-12-16 (Third 6 weeks ends)

Spring Semester

Week 1: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* 1/3-1/6

Week 2: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* 1/9-1/13

Week 3: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* 1/16-1/20

Week 4: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* 1/23-1/27

Week 5: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* 1/30-2/3

Week 6: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* 2/6-2/10 (Fourth 6 weeks ends)

Week 7: STAAR Crunch, Spring Benchmark 2/13-2/17

Week 8: Novel 2/20-2/24

Week 9: Novel 2/27-3/3

Week 10: Novel 3/6-3/10

Week 11: Spring Break 3/13-3/17

Week 12: Novel 3/20-3/24

Week 13: Novel, English I EOC 3/27-3/31 (Fifth 6 weeks ends)

Week 14: Novel 4/3-4/7

Week 15: *Romeo and Juliet, Acts II-V* 4/10-4/13

Week 16: *Romeo and Juliet, Acts II-V* 4/18-4/21

Week 17: *Romeo and Juliet, Acts II-V* 4/24-4/27

Week 18: *Romeo and Juliet, Acts II-V* 5/1-5/5

Week 19: *Romeo and Juliet, Acts II-V* 5/8-5/12

Week 20: *Romeo and Juliet, Acts II-V* 5/15-5/19 (Sixth 6 weeks ends)

9th Grade Classroom Routines and Procedures

Coming In/Beginning Class

- Must be in seat with needed materials and working on the current assignment when the bell rings, or counted tardy.
- Any student who has to go to their locker for supplies/materials after the bell rings will receive a tardy.
- Backpacks, chromebooks, food, and other extraneous items will not be permitted in the room unless specifically told otherwise.

Materials/Supplies

- Students may use a blue/black pen on assignments only. Use of any other color ink will result in grade deductions. Pencil will be accepted, but ink is preferred.
- A red pen/pencil must be brought to class every day for grading daily grams and other work. See “Daily Grams” for more information.
- Notebooks/spirals will remain on a designated shelf in the classroom and should not leave unless the student is specifically told otherwise.
- Students will be required to keep all returned assignments in an English binder (preferably a two inch, three-ringed binder) and will be graded on those binders at the end of each six weeks.
- Literature books must be covered with either a paper or stretchy book cover by the end of the first week. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.
- Repeated failure to bring needed materials to class may result in disciplinary action.

Daily Grams

- New daily gram packets will be passed out at the beginning of each week, when they should immediately be labeled with student name, date, period, and which packet it is (1,2,3,etc).
- Daily grams must be graded each day with a RED pen by the student. Failure to grade or failure to produce a red pen will result in a zero for that day (-20 or -25 for that page of the packet).**

Late Assignments

- All assignments must be turned in on the due date to receive full credit, unless specifically told otherwise by Mrs. Clark.
- Any assignment turned in on time but without a name will be considered late and will receive the grade penalty.
- Assignments turned in one day late will be worth only 70% of the credit.
- Assignments more than one day late will not be accepted and will receive a zero.**

AR

- All students will participate in AR unless an IEP dictates otherwise.
- All district policies regarding checking out books, cheating, carry-over points, and exemptions will be followed with no exceptions.
- Each six weeks, students will have their AR test average entered as a major grade at the three week point. At the end of the six weeks, if a student gets 70 percent or more of their goal, the three week grade may be dropped to improve their grade.

Bathroom

- Students will be given three bathroom passes per six weeks. Except in emergencies, students will not be allowed to visit the bathroom or get a drink without having their pass signed.
- Pass must be in the room in order to be used.
- Passes do not carry over.

Leaving/Ending Class

- Students should not stop working or pack up until the bell rings, unless specifically told to do so.
- House points will be deducted for every item left in the room that does not belong there.
- Notebooks and dictionaries should be neatly stacked/shelved. Students may be held after the bell if they are not.
- Desks and chairs must be returned to their original places unless specifically told otherwise.