



Jerry Jones

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Course Description: English Language Arts is a comprehensive English course of literature, composition, and language. Literature and the study of literature includes reading, writing, interpreting, analyzing, and comprehending various forms of literature, including short stories, drama, novels, poetry, non-fiction among other types. This course offers guidance in reading and writing for various goals from real-life purposes to educational purposes. The focus of this course also covers writing forms such as creative writing, essay writing and literary response. The overall objective is to assist in improving vocabulary, writing, grammar, critical problem solving, reading and analytical skills. Hopefully, by the end of the course, paragraphs like this one will be a little less dull and boring.

Textbooks: *MyPerspectives: British Literature*, Pearson Edition Grade 12
Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury
Frankenstein, Mary Shelly
Merriam-Webster's Pocket Dictionary

Classroom Rules and Expectations

1. Classroom behavior: Students show respect to each other; do not interrupt other students; no name calling, teasing or similar behavior.
2. Class Material: Be prepared for class. Bring:
 - a. Notebooks with paper
 - b. Pen or pencil
 - c. Folders
 - d. Textbooks
 - e. Novels or related reading material
3. No cell phones. Nope. None. Failure to comply will result in immediate referral to administration.
4. Attendance is necessary for class participation and strong grades.
5. Class participation is a part of the overall grade, and it includes being in class, being aware of what class you are sitting in, being awake, answering questions, taking notes, being involved in the class discussion in some manner.
6. Hall passes are given by the teacher before the student can leave the room. Speak to the teacher if you need to leave the room.
7. Missed assignments: It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher to make-up late or missing work. Make-up missing work as soon as possible. Unexcused late work is automatically marked down by one grade.
8. Plagiarism and cheating: These are serious matters in the classroom. Students caught cheating on assignments will receive a failing grade on the assignment. Students who are caught plagiarizing work will receive a failing grade on the assignment. If this persists, the student will be referred to administration. What constitutes as cheating and plagiarism will be covered in class.

Class Structure and Assignments

Assessment and Evaluation:

1. Weekly reading responses
2. Bi-Weekly quizzes (Vocabulary and Grammar)
3. Essay (at least twice per quarter with two additional, optional re-writes)
4. Projects (Presentation)
5. Daily Class work and homework assignments
6. Daily Bellwork (answering questions)
7. End of Quarter Test

Outside Reading Component:

Students are expected to read during class and outside of class. This will not require much time, but to keep the pace of the class, required reading must be done.

Grading Policy:

All classwork and homework and most assigned activities are graded on a points system from 0 to 100. Re-writing essays allow students to improve the prior essay grade. The essay grade will not decrease, it can only improve or remain the same. Below is the grading scale:

100% - 93% = A	79% - 77% = C+
92% - 90% = A-	72% - 70% = C-
89% - 87% = B+	69% - 67% = D+
86% - 83% = B	66% - 60% = D
82% - 80% = B-	Below 60% = F

Required Texts

MyPerspectives: British Literature, Pearson Edition Grade 12
A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens
Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson
Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury
Frankenstein, Mary Shelly
Merriam-Webster's Pocket Dictionary

Teachers are not responsible for students' books once books have been issued to the student. The copy issued to the student must be turned in by the end of the course. Students will not receive credit for turning in another student's book. The cost of a replacement will be assigned to any student who fails to turn in the exact book he was issued and/or to any student who turns in a damaged book (i.e. broken binding, torn pages, water damage, writing, etc.).

Films and Recordings

Films and Recordings in Literature:

Students often ask if instead of reading they assigned novel, is it possible to watch the related film or simply listen to an audiobook version of the novel. While these forms of media are valid and equally important forms of art and history, they also require different methods of interpretation and require different aspects of the brain to “digest” them. For this class, it is important that the student discovers an interpretation of the work(s) being read. Film and other recordings perform this function for the viewer and listener. This means the student does not create an original interpretation; rather, it is the creation of the director and performers of the engaged media. To be able to read, comprehend the reading, and project those ideas into logical thoughts is one of the class goals. This can only be done by the student reading the assigned work(s). However, with this stated, once the class has completed a reading, it is possible we might watch a film adaptation or listen to a re-enactment. Please note – this is important – if a parent believes these forms of media are inappropriate for you to watch, please indicate so on the signature page. Alternate assignments will be arranged for any students whose parents prefer they not watch or listen to the above media (films and audio recordings).

Acknowledgments

I have reviewed and understand the procedure and requirements for this ELA course as outlined above.

(Student Name) Date

(Student E-mail) Date

(Parent/Guardian Name) Date

(Parent/Guardian E-mail) Date

- Please be sure to read the **Films and Recordings** section before signing.