

Literacy 8

Period 2 & 3

Mrs. Rebecca Lahey-Scott

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to help students determine themes/central ideas of different stories by analyzing how themes progress throughout the course of a text. Throughout the class, we will be reading different short stories and practicing writing strategies as we explore various themes and how they affect each story. At the end of the quarter, we will use our knowledge of themes to write individual short stories that are meaningful.



CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

It is expected that each student comes to class prepared for that day's lesson and is engaged to learn, while being respectful of his/her teacher and classmates.

Respect

It is important that everyone respects themselves, their peers and their teacher. We all have opinions to contribute. Support each other and listen while others are talking. Appreciate the different perspectives that everyone can bring to discussions. Always be kind and considerate to others.

Participate

A good portion of the English curriculum requires discussion. Therefore, everyone must participate and give valid input during class activities. Everyone is not going to have the same opinion, and that is okay. It is important to have different opinions, and we must appreciate and learn from all sorts of perspectives.

Try Your Best

Everyone makes mistakes. This is why revising and editing are part of the English curriculum. However, the most important thing is to try your best and learn from your past mistakes. We will grow as readers and writers throughout the year, but in order to do that we must put in our best effort.

Questions

Questions are always encouraged during class. Do not be afraid to ask. Your classmates may have the same questions that you do. It is important that I address your concerns in order for us all to learn. However, keep your questions relevant to the situation to respect your classmates' and your teacher's time.

Food/Drinks/Bathrooms

Hydration is very important! You may bring water into the classroom. Because of the school's Peanut-Aware Policy, students should not bring food into the classroom. If you have to use the bathroom during class, just ask.

Technology

Phones should not be used during class for any reason. If a phone is seen out or being used by a student during class, it will be taken to the office.

Late Work

Every day that an assignment is late, 1% of the grade will be dropped from the original worth of the assignment. It is important that you complete your work on-time. In the future, your teachers and bosses may not accept work that is turned in late. Get into the habit of turning assignments in on-time right now!

Retake Policy:

Students are allowed to retake or revise Final Writing/Presentation Assignments/Test **one time**, if they are unhappy with their grade. However, the worth of the score can only reach 90%.

Plagiarism and Cheating

You would be upset if someone stole your ideas and used them as their own, so do not do it to someone else. Plagiarism and cheating is completely unacceptable. If you do, you will have a mandatory meeting with myself and your parents about your actions. Afterwards, you are required to redo and hand-write the assignment for partial grade. **JUST DON'T DO IT.**



Units

Unit 1: Short Story/Fiction Writing

- We will read and summarize several classic short stories and analyze themes.
- We will model our own short stories after those stories we have read.

Unit 2: “Choose Kind” Individual Reading Unit and Project

- We will choose individual books that have a kindness theme and use reading strategies as a class to analyze and discuss the theme development in each of the books
- We will write reflection journals throughout our reading and a final project to retell our books in a creative way.

Unit 2.5: Grammar Bootcamp

- We will use mentor texts we have read to analyze parts of speech, sentence structure, and verb mood/voice.
- We will learn and apply rules for punctuation in our writing.

Unit 3: Mini Units (Radio Play and Allusion Presentation)

- We will read a suspenseful radio play together to practice speaking and listening skills through discussion.
- Students will conduct a short presentation on an allusion that they have seen in modern media and showcase their connection to their classmates.

Unit 4: *Killing Mr. Griffin*/ Mock Trial

- We will read the novel *Killing Mr. Griffin* and analyze the literary devices used by the author. This novel is used because of the lessons and discussions on peer pressure, accountability and foreshadowing.
- We will prepare and conduct a mock trial of the characters in the book and understand how court rooms are conducted.

Unit 6: Mental Wellbeing Research Proposal

- We will choose different mental wellbeing activities to research and evaluate multiple sources of information to come up with a proposal.
- We will learn to use formal style and MLA citations throughout our writing.

Unit 7: *The Outsiders*/ Persuasive Writing

- We will read the novel *The Outsiders* and analyze its themes.
- Students will be assessed on their ability to analyze the text and explain their opinions.