

English 9/10

Mrs. Blair M.A. CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist

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I am delighted to welcome you to English 9/10! I look forward to the opportunity to get to know each and every one of you and to enjoy a productive year of learning. We will be working hard this year, reading and responding to thought-provoking literature and texts and further sharpening our writing skills as we explore the fundamental questions about who we are and how we define ourselves. At the end of the year, I hope that you will feel a sense of accomplishment and pride in the work you have produced and the insight you have gained.

In order for our classroom to be successful, we all need to work together to create a caring, respectful, and creative environment where our feelings, ideas, and writings can be shared freely and honestly. Additionally, I expect all of you to come to class each day prepared to be active participants in the daily classroom activities.

Classroom Texts

- *Night* by Elie Wiesel
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- *Romeo & Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- Selected Poetry
- Short Stories
- Nonfiction texts

Essential Questions

Throughout the course of the year, we will explore the following questions in our literature, writing, class discussions, and reflections to help guide our exploration of “Who am I?”:

- How can people understand the transition from youth to maturity?
- How do we balance being true to ourselves with a responsibility to meeting others’ expectations?

Materials

- Laptop/tablet device
- Folder for this class only ~ **Required**

Grading Policy

Please remember that teachers do not *give* grades; students *earn* grades. In order for you to earn grades that best reflect your efforts, please read through the following policies:

Point System

Grades will be earned on a point system. Your quarter grade will be calculated by dividing the total points earned by the total number of points available.

- Homework and classwork assignments are generally 10 points.

- Quizzes will be generally 6 points.
- Class participation is evaluated twice a quarter for a total of 40 points per quarter.
- Tests, projects, and major writing assignments will be worth 100 points.

Semester Grading

- Q1 = 42.5%
- Q2 = 42.5%
- Exam = 15%

Homework Expectations

You will have homework assignments that you will be expected to complete, for the most part, on a nightly basis. This may include writing assignments on Google Classroom, journal prompts, reading assignments, etc. ***Please come to class with your planner or other device for recording assignments.***

Late Assignments

It is your responsibility to hand in homework on the day that it is due. I will still accept a missing assignment the next day, *but it will receive only partial credit.*

- *For major writing assignments or projects*, I will subtract 5 points each day that it is late. However, I do make exceptions on a case-by-case basis if you come see me *in advance*. I understand that sometimes situations arise that you didn't foresee or that some of you may need more time to revise your writing. If you come and talk to me about your situation in advance, we can work out an extension.
- *If you have an excused absence from school*, you have the same number of days that you were out to make up the homework/classwork. You are also responsible for finding out what you missed on the days you were out, either from another classmate or from me.
- *In the case of an extended school absence*, communicate with me so that we can work out a plan for you to make up the work. *All Individualized Education Programs with accommodations for extra time will be followed.* Set due dates will be established one with student.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

In order to truly learn, your work must be your own. Submitting work that is not your own will not be tolerated. *Plagiarism and cheating will result in a zero on that assignment and a call home.*

- Plagiarism consists of passing off others' work as your own (e.g., copying and pasting writing from internet sources and trying to pass it off as your own, having someone else write a paper for you).
- Cheating consists of copying another person's work or answers on an exam, or allowing someone else to copy from you.

So consider yourselves **WARNED** in advance: ***My policy, again, is to award a zero on ANY work that has been the result of plagiarism or cheating*** There will not be an opportunity to make up

that assignment, nor will there be any second chances. This is a zero-tolerance policy. Be sure you always make responsible choices and consider the consequences of your actions.

Portfolios

At the end of the year, you will be required to submit a portfolio of your written work. I will review the portfolio expectations and rubric in class. I strongly recommend that you save your work in Google Drive or in your English folder so that you do not have to rewrite anything a second time. *When in doubt, save everything!*

Cell Phone Use

I will allow you to use your cell phone to record homework assignments at the beginning or end of class. Cell phones will be placed in a bin for the remainder of the class.

Extra Help

Extra help is available to you. Please do not wait to get help if you are confused or struggling. So much of what we do builds on what we've previously learned. The sooner you see me to set up an appointment for extra help, the better.

We have an exciting and challenging year ahead of us, and I am thrilled to share it with you!

Please print your name and sign below to show that you understand the contents of this syllabus. *Also, please have a parent/guardian sign and return it tomorrow for a homework grade.*

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Student's Name (please print)

Student's Signature

Date

Parent's Name (please print)

Parent Signature

Date