

# 9th Grade and Literature and Composition

*Ms. Dix*

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T-4

## **COURSE OF STUDY:**

9<sup>th</sup> grade Literature and Composition is a one-semester course required for the college endorsement seal and is also assessed by the Georgia High School Graduation Test and the 9<sup>th</sup> grade End of Course Test. Literature and Composition involves a survey of major literary genres, using a variety of texts. Built around the focus text will be a variety of other, shorter works that support and supplement students' exploration of the course's essential questions. The course is designed to ensure that all students are up to standards as outlined in the Georgia Performance Standards. Throughout the semester, the student will be required to participate in various activities and forms of assessments to ensure that content material is being transferred to the student through various strategies and lessons created by the teacher.

## **PRIMARY TEXTS**

- Prentice Hall Literature
- Night
- The House on Mango Street
- Romeo and Juliet
- The Odyssey
- Of Mice and Men
- The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman
- Various short stories, poems, and myths

## **WRITING:**

Students will build upon their knowledge of narrative, informational, and persuasive writing styles and learn to incorporate clearly defined thesis statements, smooth transition sentences, and various organizational strategies into their writing. Students will reflect on their writing process and develop individual writing goals for the semester. As we learn to write effective essays, we will work to improve our skills using specific SOAPSTONE. Students will know in advance what their writing is being graded on, and we will work to improve our skills by focusing on improvement on three specific areas for each assignment.

## **CLASS PROJECTS:**

- 1) Students will create a writing portfolio of their work. Included in the portfolio will be examples of narrative, informational, persuasive, and creative writing styles. A few examples include:
  - A variety of essays
  - Myth writing
  - Poetry
  - Research Projects
- 2) Students will keep a class binder, which will be checked for organization and completion each marking period. The binder should be at least two-inches and will be used for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade English class. Students will need to label all class notes, assignments, and handouts.
- 3) Students will be given various projects to access skills covered in the class.

# CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

## 1) Respect

Students will demonstrate respect for other students and the teacher by using appropriate language, being prepared for class, following directions, adhering to all school policies, and by keeping an open mind when learning about different cultures, traditions, beliefs and life styles.

## 2) Be Prepared

Always come to class prepared. This means coming into class and being seated when the bell rings, bringing your class binder each day, completing homework on time, and reviewing your notes between 15-20 minutes each night. In addition, your presence in the classroom is essential to your success. Tardiness and unexcused absences will have an adverse effect on your grade.

## 3) Expect great things from yourself and your peers

Your attitude plays an important role in your education. If you believe you can succeed – you can! Encourage your classmates to succeed as well.

## 4) Take ownership of your education

Take personal responsibility for your learning; set goals, evaluate progress towards those goals, adhere to high standards and revise your performance when needed. You can also take responsibility for your learning by asking questions when something is unclear, participating in classroom discussions and asking for extra help if you need it. Take ownership of your classroom. This is your space and your area to learn; help keep it clean and organized. This is your education – get everything you can out of it!

### REQUIRED SUPPLIES:

- 1) Something to write with – a pencil or pen (black or blue ink – no gel pens, markers, etc.)
- 2) A highlighter
- 3) A two-inch binder filled with college-ruled loose-leaf
- 4) A pack of at least fifty 3x5 lined index cards for research

### RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES:

- 1) A USB flash drive with at least 128MB
- 2) An inexpensive accordion or expansion folder for organizing research materials

### HOMEWORK AND ASSIGNMENT POLICIES:

- Assignments will be listed on a monthly calendar given to each student at the beginning of each month. Students should keep track of assignments.
- Copying, cheating, and/or plagiarizing are grounds for failing the assignment and disciplinary action.
- All handouts, assignments, class notes, vocabulary, and literary definitions will be kept in a binder. The binder will be collected each marking period for grading. Students must have all work organized, fully completed, and correctly labeled in order to receive full credit.
- In order to receive full credit on all assignments, students must turn in their work on the designated due date. Long-term writing assignments and projects will **not** be accepted late.
- In the case of an excused absence, students are responsible for making up all missed work and for any class notes given during their absence within three days. Students should plan to speak to the teacher before or after school upon return and/or utilize information posted on the class website.

### GRADES:

Students are graded on a total point system (i.e. Grades= 85% Final Exam=15% Total for course 100%). The final course grade is **FINAL**. Students are expected to work hard the entire semester.

**A**=90% - 100%

**B**=80% - 89%

**C**=70% - 79%

**F**=0% - 69%

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Cut and Return to Ms. Dix

*I have read and understand the class syllabus and policies for Ms. Dix's 9<sup>th</sup> grade English class. If I have any questions or concerns, I know that I can contact Ms. Dix at 678-904-5091 or [sdix@techhighschool.org](mailto:sdix@techhighschool.org)*

Print Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_