

Syllabus

Reading Skills & Literature

The objective of the literature component is to encourage further interest in reading while introducing basic literary concepts. You will be reading several novels and plays as well as classic short stories. You will often have a short essay assignment or comprehension test pertaining to the reading and will always be expected to discuss the work in class on the assigned day. Your writing assignments will be geared toward bringing together all your learning in composition, grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and reading comprehension. It is important that all reading assignments be completed – and on time. You will NOT be able to get away with not reading the assigned stories, novels, and plays.

Vocabulary

Vocabulary words are all taken from the assigned stories, novels, and plays in order to help you better understand the readings. These words are also chosen for you for a number of other reasons: First, these are commonly used words in high school and college-level reading and in the works of contemporary (as well as older) literature. Second, these words all commonly appear on the PSAT, SAT, and ACT exams that you'll all be taking during your Junior year. You need to know the definitions of these words and how to use them – not just for vocabulary tests, but forever. Vocabulary tests will be given regularly throughout the year.

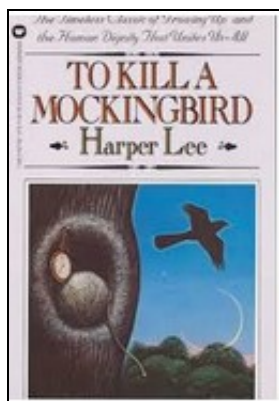
Writing

The writing component is intended to introduce you to the basic skills of writing summaries, synopses, and different types of paragraphs and essays (e.g., narrative, descriptive, expository). The ultimate objective is to prepare you to write a well-organized, thoughtful, essay, essential to success in high school and college. Much of the writing that you produce in this course is designed to reinforce your reading. Since reading and writing stimulate and support one another, they are taught together.

Materials



The Interactive Student Edition in Realize Reader.



To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Units

The following units will be covered during Semester 1:

1. Unit One - What does it mean to be "American"?
2. Unit Two - What does it take to survive?
3. Unit Three - How can words inspire change?
4. Unit Four - To Kill a Mockingbird - How do we define courage? How do our definitions of courage and hero change as we "come of age"?

Assignments & Grading

You will complete the following assignments during Semester 1:

- 13 daily assignments
- 4 Essays
 - Narrative Essay
 - Nonfiction Narrative Essay
 - Argument Essay
 - Informative Essay
- Discussion-Based Assessment
- Semester Exam

93-100 = A (4.00)	73-77 = C (2.00)
90-92 = A- (3.67)	70-72 = C- (1.67)
88-89 = B+ (3.33)	68-69 = D+ (1.33)
83-87 = B (3.00)	63-67 = D (1.00)
80-82 = B- (2.67)	60-62 = D- (0.67)
78-79 = C+ (2.33)	0-59 = F (0.00)

Daily assignments = 40% of final grade

Essays, DBA, Semester Exam = 60% of final grade