



Language Arts: Grade 12 (2017-18)

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Ellie Brady

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This will be my sixth year as a Language Arts teacher at SLCSE, and I am honored and excited to be your teacher this year. The curriculum that I have planned is demanding as my hope is to prepare you for college and what lies beyond high school. I have high expectations for each of my students and have planned my curriculum around district and state requirements, while considering the unique school culture of SLCSE that I love being a part of. In my class you can plan on working hard, being prepared, being responsible, being creative, and having fun!

About the Course

This course is designed to help prepare you to become more competent in reading the kinds of texts you will be assigned in different disciplines throughout the remainder of your high school classes, but especially beyond. This is your last year in high school and I want to make sure that you are leaving with the skills you need to be successful! You will work hard to master the reading, writing, speaking, listening and critical thinking skills necessary for college and career success. We will be reading from a variety of sources, and you will continually be drafting, revising and editing your writing. I will be working closely with the Utah Language Arts Core Curriculum to meet state standards. The Utah Core requires continual, intensive practice and study of informational and literary reading and writing. If you would like, please familiarize yourself with the Utah Language Arts Core Curriculum found at the Utah State Office of Education website:

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/core/>

Required Reading

Throughout the year we will be using many resources, as we do not have a single “textbook”. The texts, listed below, will be read (in their entirety or excerpted) as a whole class. However, all texts will be supplemented with additional sources including: essays, videos, short stories, poems, articles etc.

Fences by August Wilson

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

Hamlet by William Shakespeare

The Emerald Mile by Kevin Fedarko

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Additionally, we will consistently be reading books, both fiction and non-fiction, within Literature Circle Groups. Our book collection has been steadily growing and this year is no exception. The Language Arts Department has worked over the summer to make sure that we are providing students with new and interesting books of literary merit to devour.

Other units include:

- Personal Narratives/College Essays & Preparation
- Poetry Out Loud Competition & Poetry
- Creative Writing
- Nature Writing
- Literary Analysis & Argument
- Advanced Informative Writing

Unit 1: Personal Narrative & College Essays

Essential Question:

How do I speak about myself, and present myself to others?
 What do I need to do to prepare for next year?

In addition to working on college and life after high school, we will be reading some classic works of literature in small groups, including but not limited to: *My Antonia* by Willa Cather, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf, *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. Students will also have a breadth of choice in current literature, both fiction and non-fiction.

Materials

You are expected to bring to class:

- pencil or pen
- a notebook or folder dedicated to this class
- our current reading (book and/or supplemental text)
- your SLCSE planner

Grading Policies

60% Classwork – The daily products we work on in class

25% Projects – The work that is of longer duration and is completed in and outside of class

15% Homework, Tests, and Quizzes

- If you need an extension on an assignment, you need to speak with me at least 1 day before the assignment is due. Late work will be accepted but will be docked 50%. For example, if a homework assignment is worth 10 points and you turn it in late, the highest amount of points you may receive is 5.
- If you are absent, you have one week to make up the missed work, unless other arrangements have been made.
- Classwork, Essays and Projects will account for the majority of your grade in this class. They may take place over time and will therefore have deadlines along the way.
- Plagiarism is unacceptable. If plagiarism is practiced in any way a 0% will be given for the assignment and a conversation will take place between the student, parent/guardian, and myself. If plagiarism occurs a second time the student will fail that particular quarter.
- If you need help, schedule a time to come work with me, or go to the Homework Hall after school.
- Grades at the end of each quarter are FINAL.
- Reminder: In order to graduate students are required to pass every quarter of high school Language Arts.

Honors

All students may choose to take the class for honors credit. In addition to all of the regular assignments, honors students will complete some assignments and a writing assignment/project outside of class. You may opt-in to honors the first two weeks of the school year. After that, you are assumed to be in honors unless you speak with me to remove yourself from the class. Failure to complete honors projects will negatively impact your grade.

Class Behavior Expectations

1. Be on time—in your seat when the bell rings
2. Be prepared—have your materials with you
3. No cell phones/electronic devices used during class time unless specified to do so
4. Be respectful—of others’ identities, ideas, belongings, and personal space
5. Leave no trace. Pick up your stuff, push in your chairs, and put things where they belong

One final word: We will be reading a variety of texts this year that will bring up controversial topics, ideas and events which we will be discussing during class time. We will also be reading texts that require a high level of maturity because of their serious nature. Being respectful of others’ ideas, beliefs, thoughts, observations and opinions is imperative and will be expected at all times. My classroom is a safe space for all people to ask questions, share ideas and to be themselves.

Dear families,

If you have any questions or concerns please reach me via email at: ellie.brady@slcschools.org

I look forward to working with both you and your student this year!

Thank you,

Ms. Brady

Please sign and return this portion of the disclosure statement.

I have read the above disclosure.

Print student name

Parent signature and date

Cell phone #
