

# English Language & Arts: Year B

Welcome to English Language and Arts class! In this course, students will read, analyze and interpret fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry print and nonprint texts. Students will develop and refine reading, research, writing, and speaking skills to improve their roles as communicators in the twenty-first century.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students can expect this course to require them to use higher-level thinking skills. Students will be expected to compare, contrast, construct, argue, evaluate, infer, deduce, analyze, interpret, criticize, apply, synthesize, explain, justify, summarize, revise, write, and test. It will be imperative that students are prepared to be challenged and to work diligently. Students will further develop their skills in citing textual evidence to support their ideas, conducting research, analyzing print and non-print text, analyzing characters and point of view, reading texts with varying levels of complexity, analyzing the structure of text, communicating effectively in writing and speaking, and evaluating author's arguments.

## COURSE THEMES

### **Cycle 1: Voice**

- Anchor Text (Grades 9/10): *Night* by Elie Weisel
- Anchor Text (Grades 11/12): *The Autobiography of Malcolm-X as Told To Alex Haley* by Alex Haley

*Summative Assessment: Narrative Essay (Grades 9-10); College Common Application Essay (Grades 11-12)*

### **Cycle 2: Power**

- Anchor Text (Grades 9/10): *The Tragedy of MacBeth* by William Shakespeare
- Anchor Text (Grades 11/12): *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare

*Summative Assessment: Persuasive Essay (Grades 9-10); Analytical Essay (Grades 11-12)*

### **Cycle 3: Perspective**

- Anchor Text (Grades 9/10): *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
- Anchor Text (Grades 11/12): *Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond

*Summative Assessment: Reflective Essay (Grades 9-10); Research Based Argumentative Essay (Grades 11-12)*

## Cycle 4: Identity

- Anchor Text (Grades 9/10) : *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
- Anchor Texts (Grades 11/12): *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams and *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri

*Summative Assessment: Explanatory Essay (Grades 9-10); Narrative + Informative Essay or Argumentative + Narrative Essay (Grades 11-12)*

## ESSENTIAL AGREEMENTS

1. Ask logical and related questions.
2. Be on time.
3. Let Ms. Amber get her stuff together/Please avoid holding the class up.
4. Please listen to avoid asking the same question repeatedly.
5. Participate fully in group and class activities/lessons/discussions/group initiative.
6. Be confident. Each of you is capable of achieving great success in this course. Believe in your abilities and your potential to be a successful learner! I believe in you. :)
7. Come talk to me! If you ever have any questions or need help, do not hesitate to stop by and see me during advisory hours.

## Here is what you should expect of me:

1. I will provide you with timely, detailed, and constructive feedback regarding your work.
2. I love to maintain organized grades and classroom materials.
3. I respect your ideas, opinions, viewpoints, and needs.
4. I will provide you with clear directions, rules, and expectations to guide your learning.
5. I will be available for communication and collaboration with you and your parents/guardians.

## GRADING

Your grade for this course will be earned based on a variety of assessments including, but not limited to, quizzes, tests, homework, writing assignments, essays, Socratic Seminars, in-class activities, projects, etc... I am more than happy to accept work turned in past the deadline for reduced credit. Submitting late work will significantly impact your grade. Students will not be tested or required to hand in assignments on the day the student

returns from school if they were assigned on the day the student was absent. Students shall adhere to deadlines for tests and projects that were established/assigned prior to the absence.

*Students have equal to the number of days absent for make-up work, tests, assignments, reports, etc., up to a maximum of five (5) days without penalty.*

## **Grade Percentages**

A= 90% - 100%

B= 80% - 89%

C= 70% - 79%

D= 60% - 69%

F= 0% - 59%

Marking period grades are calculated for this course using the following categories and percentages.

Homework: 10% Formative Assessments

Classwork - Daily (in-class) Assignments/Activities: 25%

Projects, Research, & Writing Assignments: 30%

Tests/Quizzes/Exams: 35%

## LATE POLICY

There will be a 20% deduction from the score of an assignment, when an assignment is submitted late. An assignment is considered late if it is not submitted at the time of collection.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

Your grade is a reflection of your skills, knowledge, and understanding of the course content. Therefore, *any work that is not your own will not be accepted or assessed*. Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will result in a 0% for the assignment. This includes homework, daily-in class assignments, writing assignments, projects, quizzes, and tests. Assignments that required you to use additional resources (books, websites, photographs, etc.) must be properly cited to submit with your work.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance is important to student success. All work (in-class and homework) must be made up when a student misses school for any reason—including excused trips. Students going on excused trips must get the assignments BEFORE leaving on their trip, and it is due the day they return to school from their trip. It is the expectation of the teacher that she will be notified of the trip at least a week in advance. Students who are absent from class for ANY reason (field trip, vacation, sports, etc.) are responsible for talking with me to find out what they missed. If a student is in school, but misses English class (sport, appointment, etc.), the student MUST see me beforehand to submit that day's homework and to find out what he/she will be missing in class. If the student doesn't do this, the assignments given and collected on that day will be considered late. The student will need to arrange to make-up missed assessments. (tests, quizzes, etc.)