



Rochester Community Schools

English Language Arts (ELA) Credit By Exam

Preparation for taking the Exploring Literature exam

Course Description

Students examine how reading influences people in different ways. Students interview people in the community to gain insight into why people read and how it has affected their lives. Students read and research titles and authors to determine what defines a quality piece of literature. Students gain perspective into an author's intent by examining elements of style and the author's craft. Students identify and discuss literary elements found in literature. Students explore universal themes in literature and identify examples from their own lives and today's society. Students examine how enduring literature reveals common characteristics among humans. Literary options may include *Killing Mr. Griffin*, *The Hunger Games*, *Monster*, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *The Natural*, *The Chocolate War*, and contemporary literary selections.

Prerequisite: successful completion of LA 10

To prepare for the Credit by Exam (CBE) for this course, you will need to do the following:

The following skills/concepts should be understood/reviewed and students will need to apply them within the assessment and their writing task:

- Read *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, and *The Chocolate War*. Be prepared to answer specific questions related to the text and to write a timed essay on one of these novels during your timed test period.
- Understand basic literary elements and story structure including but not limited to: plot (linear and nonlinear structures and their purposes), setting (its significance in developing the plot and characters of the story), characterization (direct and indirect, foils, motivation, etc.) , figurative language (irony, metaphor, symbols, tone, etc.), POV, conflict, rhetorical devices, etc.
- Understand how a writer uses literary elements and devices to create dystopian/realistic/narrative/historical literature. Focus on the impact of character development, internal and external conflicts, and the exploration of real-world themes, such as facing adversity.

On the CBE date, students will be expected to:

- Be prepared to take an MC test based on the use of literary techniques used to develop themes in literature, story structure, and comprehension.
- Be prepared to answer specific questions related to the assigned reading.
- Be prepared to write a short essay that connects your understanding of one or more of the assigned novels to theme development.

In order to earn credit for this course, students must earn a 77% or higher on each of the components of the exam. Failure to reach that standard on each section will result in no credit.