

9th/10th Grade English

Lincoln Hill High School

Mr. Christensen

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Texts

- Our texts might include, but are not limited to: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee; *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck; *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding; *Animal Farm* by George Orwell; *Night* by Elie Wiesel; *Whirligig* by Paul Fleischman; *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury; and transcripts from the *Serial* podcast narrated by Sarah Koenig.
- Additionally, we will study various poetry, essays, short stories, informational texts and news articles, in the form of handouts or links to online content.

Rationale

The abilities to write well and discern meaning from texts are the foundations of an informed and participatory citizenship. A multitude of opportunities open for those who achieve mastery of these skills.

Objectives

- You will become more confident about your own writing, whether you have been enthusiastic or reluctant to write in the past, as you gain an understanding of the functions of parts of speech, the structure and conventions of syntax, and how to organize these effectively.
- Additionally, you will be able to interpret passages from multiple types of texts not only for their direct meanings, but also for subtext, cross-topic connections, and implications for the present and future.

Responsibilities

Be respectful. Be responsible. Be safe.

- Show respect by keeping headphones and electronic devices out of sight during direct instruction. Show respect by asking questions before making assumptions. Show respect by allowing everyone to have a voice, and listening to understand when others show the courage to speak. Show respect by treating books, furniture, and other classroom materials better than if you owned them yourself.
- Show responsibility by being in class, on time, each day. Show responsibility by turning in your assignments when they are due, and never, ever taking credit for work that you did not do yourself. Show responsibility by getting enough sleep so you can be attentive in class.
- Show regard for safety by keeping backpacks out of walkways. Show regard for safety by letting me or another staff member know of any potential for harm to yourself or someone else. Show regard for safety through kindness to others, even when you disagree or disapprove of their point of view.

Routines

- No cell phones or headphones during direct instruction, and never during the first 10 minutes of class for any reason without express permission. See LHHS handbook policy.

- If you are tardy, sign in on the blue sheet at the front of the room. Get quickly and quietly to your seat without distracting others.
- If you're absent, ask to find out what you missed, and get the materials.
- Bathroom breaks require my permission and my hall pass.

Supplies

- Composition book or other notebook paper for writing.
- Pencil or pen.
- Book we are currently studying. Books generally stay in English or LAP classes, and are not checked out except in case of absence/make-up work.
- Work that is due, or packet materials previously given for work in progress.

Assignments

- Vocabulary, grammar/syntax correction, comprehension and analysis questions, short essays, summative assessments for novels. I will allow ample time during classes for completing assignments as often as possible.
- You can always revise any assignment or make corrections to earn a better grade, with the exception of summative assessments.
- If you don't turn in any work, you don't earn any points.

Grades/Credits

Categories for different types of assignments are not weighted. Grades are based on a percentage of total points earned. Sixty percent for the session is the minimum required to earn any credit with a D. Each session which you pass is worth .125 credit toward graduation (maximum of .5 for a semester). If you don't earn credit for a session, you can still make it up and earn up to the full credit for the time you were enrolled, up to a cut-off at end of semester.

Homework

We won't have much, as I give ample time in class. Due dates will usually be within a day or two after work is assigned, with the exception of summative assessments. However, if you don't read, it will affect your ability to participate in class discussions and to write about the text.

Your first assignment is to sign your name below mine, have a parent or other adult sign, and turn it in for 5 points.

Teacher's signature-

Student's signature-

Parent or adult's signature -