

Literature Syllabus

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Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Cultivate the moral imagination by “analyzing how spiritual knowledge and enduring truths are represented and communicated through literature”
- Use a variety of reading strategies to ensure deeper comprehension of a variety of texts
- Analyze literature for deeper appreciation and understanding of each work
- Read aloud with clarity and expression

Curriculum

6th Grade

Together we will read and discuss a selection of literature, including novels, short stories, a play, and various non-fiction texts. In addition, students will choose their own Independent Reading books, to read in class and at home. In 6th grade, I will emphasize reading strategies, story elements, historical fiction, an introduction to figurative language, and mythology as well as an examination of the way in which characters can change for the better as they encounter challenges and grow in virtue, allowing for redemption.

Class Text each Quarter

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan (ISBN: 978-0439120425)

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dicks (adapted for Readers Theater) ISBN:978-81-7599-327-3

The Magician's Nephew by C.S. Lewis 978-0-553-49482-2

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths by Ingri and Edgar d'Aulaire ISBN:0-385-01583-6

Honors 2nd book: *The Wanderings of Odysseus* by Rosemary Sutcliff ISBN: 978-0-553-49482-2

7th Grade

Together we will read and discuss a selection of literature, including a novel, poetry, a play, short stories, and various non-fiction texts. In addition, students will choose their own Independent Reading books, to read in class and at home. In 7th grade, I emphasize mastering elements of fiction, understanding and reciting poetry, an introduction to Shakespeare, extrapolating themes and applying those themes within a Christian framework of morality and meaning.

Class Text each Quarter

The Winged Watchman by Hilda van Stockum (ISBN: 978-1883937072)

Poetry Unit

Shakespeare for Young People: Julius Caesar, ed. by Davidson

Short Stories and Fables

8th Grade

Together we will read and discuss a selection of literature, including a novel, poetry, a play, short stories, and various non-fiction texts. In addition, students will choose their own Independent Reading books, to read in class and at home. In 8th grade, I emphasize the development of language, interpreting poetry, reading and analyzing two classic novels with greater independence, and reciting Shakespeare. In addition, through comparative analysis, students will be able to identify both the sinfulness and virtue in characters, leading to conclusions about what it means to live a good and moral life, blessed by God.

Class Text each Quarter

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton (ISBN: 978-0-14-240733-2)

The Call of the Wild by Jack London (ISBN: 9781734704105)

Beowulf the Warrior retold by Ian Serraillier (ISBN: 978-1883937072)

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare (ISBN: 978-0-7434-8275-2)

Grading Scale

Students are expected to read outside of class nearly every day. Final grades each quarter are calculated by dividing the number of points earned by the total number of points possible. Homework consists of: reading assigned chapters by the deadline, memorizing literary terms, and reviewing Study Guide questions prior to a quiz. Study Guide questions are completed and discussed in class. These Study Questions are completed and discussed in class. Students will earn points in the following categories: completed classwork, reading quizzes, end of book tests, IXL completion (reading strategy practice), and projects.

Supplies

- White three ring binder
 - four dividers
 - notebook paper
- Black or blue pen, a red pen, highlighter, and a pencil.
- Provided TCS Planner
- Issued Class Literature Text and Independent Novel

Show up prepared and ready to work!

Communication

Google Classroom

Google Classroom is a collaboration tool for teachers and students. Teachers create an online classroom, invite students to the class then create and distribute assignments. Within the Google Classroom students and teachers can have conversations about the assignments and teachers can track the student's progress. This is an organizational tool for the students to see all assignments and to-do lists in one place. Parents are able to receive communication as well to see what the students are working on.

E-mail

The most effective method of communication between teacher and parents is e-mail. Parents should expect to receive a reply from the teacher within 24 hours. Students may confer directly with the teacher to resolve any questions or concerns. Students may use their school-issued email account to communicate, if there is not an opportunity in class.

Powerschool

Parents and students are responsible for checking PowerSchool on a regular basis to monitor progress. Please bring concerns to the teacher's attention as soon as they appear. Parents and teachers will work together to promote student progress. Questions regarding access to PowerSchool should be directed to the front office.

AI Policy

Literature is about exploring stories, perspectives, and students' own ideas. AI can be a tool, but the real goal is for students to grow as readers, writers, and thinkers. We will learn how to use AI responsibly as a support—not a replacement—for our own thinking and creativity. Intentional misuse of AI is a breach of academic honesty.

Conduct Grade

Trinity Catholic School is committed to providing a high quality Catholic education for all students in an atmosphere conducive to learning and teaching. Grounded in the teachings of the Gospels, we demonstrate our faith through our behavior and we take responsibility for our actions and their consequences. We maintain high expectations with respect to student effort, positive growth, personal responsibility, and respect.

Conduct grades are a separate evaluation from academic performance. They reflect a student's overall behavior and development as a citizen within the classroom environment. Consistent positive behavior contributes significantly to a strong learning environment for everyone. By striving to meet the character traits of

“KNIGHTS,” students can earn high conduct grades in each subject, while fostering a positive and respectful classroom community.

I show... **K**indness

I am... **N**urturing

I act with... **I**ntegrity

I show... **G**rit

I have... **H**ope

I show... **T**olerance

I show... **S**elf-Discipline

Teachers base conduct grades on a student’s consistent behavior throughout the quarter, not just isolated incidents. They look for the following:

Conduct Grade-Citizenship in the Classroom	
Above Average Knight Behavior 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Is a positive role model, who leads quietly or outwardly● Shows kindness and care for others● Is always respectful of teachers and fellow students● Works to improve the classroom atmosphere● Takes an active part in class discussions, groups, etc.● Is a self-starter and seeks to help others● Completes all work to the best of their ability● Demonstrates personal and academic integrity● Respect classroom resources/tools● Arrives on time and prepared to learn
Satisfactory Knight Behavior 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Contributes positively to class● Shows respect for others● Comes to class prepared and on time● Demonstrates personal and academic integrity● Listens and talks when appropriate● Does what is expected● Willing to help others● Respect classroom resources/tools

Needs Improvement Knight Behavior 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Needs frequent reminders by the teacher to stay on task and/or behave appropriately ● Needs improvement in showing respect and kindness to classmates/teacher ● Sometimes comes to class unprepared and/or does not complete work ● Distracts other students' learning ● Occasionally displays a negative or uncooperative attitude ● Irresponsible with classroom resources/tools
Unsatisfactory Knight Behavior 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is a disruptive influence on the class, negatively impacting the learning environment ● Shows a lack of respect for teacher/fellow students ● Is disrespectful or unkind to others, in actions or words ● Regularly comes to class unprepared and puts forth little effort ● Demonstrates a lack of personal and academic integrity ● Harms classroom resources/tools

In the event a student receives a 3 or 4 in Conduct and the behavior does not improve, a Parent/Teacher Conference may be scheduled, a Behavior Plan will be put in place, and the student may lose privileges. In the event that the behaviors don't improve over time, it may be decided that Trinity is not the best fit for that student.