



English I Syllabus 2026-2027

Teacher Name: Shannon Baxter
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Office hours/Planning: 4th Block (12:40-2:00)

Communications Policy:

Open and consistent communication between school and home is essential for student success. I encourage students and parents/guardians to reach out whenever questions or concerns arise regarding assignments, grades, attendance, or classroom expectations.

Preferred Method of Communication

School Status is the preferred method of communication for contacting me. This platform allows for timely communication between home and school and will be used for announcements, reminders, academic updates, and individual student concerns.

Email may also be used when appropriate; however, School Status should be the primary method of communication whenever possible.

Response Time

I strive to respond to all School Status messages and emails within one school day during the regular school week. Messages received after school hours, on weekends, holidays, or during school breaks will be answered as soon as possible on the next school day.

Parent Partnership

Parents and guardians are encouraged to:

- Monitor grades and attendance regularly through ParentVUE.
- Review assignments, announcements, and due dates in Google Classroom.
- Contact me through School Status whenever questions or concerns arise.
- Encourage regular attendance, daily reading, and timely completion of assignments.

Student Responsibility

Students are expected to:

- Check Google Classroom daily for assignments and announcements.
- Read teacher feedback and communicate when clarification is needed.
- Take responsibility for obtaining missed work after absences.
- Seek assistance early if they are struggling academically.

A strong partnership between students, families, and the teacher creates the best opportunity for success. Early communication through School Status helps ensure that concerns are addressed quickly and students remain on track throughout the school year.

Instructional Materials:

*myPerspectives English Language Arts Grade 9 (Digital and Printed Copy form). I print each student the section we will cover. I want students to be able to annotate, answer questions, and take notes on the paper copy. (Yes, I use an enormous amount of copy paper.)

*Savvas Classroom Platform

*Google Classroom

*Additional reading materials (novels, plays, and/or memoirs)

Course Description:

English I is designed to develop confident readers, thoughtful writers, and effective communicators. Students will engage in rigorous discussions, close reading, analytical writing, vocabulary development, and grammar instruction while exploring a variety of literary and informational texts. Students are expected to think critically, support their ideas with evidence, and actively participate in collaborative learning experiences.

Semester at a Glance: (Modifications may be needed throughout the semester.)

Unit	Time Frame	Standards	Major Topics/Concepts	% of Blue print	CFA (Y or N)
	1st Qtr				
	Week 2		Beginning of Year Diagnostic Assessment (Converted from Savvas) (Used as a diagnostic benchmark)(BM#1: Savvas)	96	Yes
Unit One: <i>My Perspectives</i>	Weeks 2-9	9-10.RI.KID.1-3 9-10.RL.KID.1-3 9-10.RI.CS.4-6 9-10.RL.CS.4.-6 9-10.L.CSE.1-6 9-10.W.TTP.2	Literature: Nonfiction and Fiction, Reading, Vocabulary, Convention Standards Novel of choice by teacher Unit 1: American Voices: “Quilt of a Country,” “Immigrant Contribution,” “American History,” “The Writing on the Wall” Grammar: Sentence Structure, Agreement, Punctuation CFA #4: Language Mechanics	75	Yes

			9_English_CFA_#4		
Informational Writing	Weeks 2-9	9-10.W.TTP.1-3	Writing: Comparison, Informational Text (“Quilt...”/”Immigrant...”) CFA #5: Final Constructed Response using the TNReady Rubric) 9_English_CFA_#5	34-38	Yes
	Week 9	9-10.RL.KID.2 9-10.RL.CS.4-5	CFA #3: Literature Selections from <i>Jane Eyre</i> and “The Fall of the House of Usher” (Old Item Release) 9_English_CFA_#3	96	Yes

	2nd Qtr	Standards			
Unit Two: <i>My Perspectives</i>	Weeks 10-14	9-10.RI.KID.1-3 9-10.RL.KID.1-3 9-10.RI.CS.4-6 9-10.RL.CS.4-6 9-10.L.CSE.1-6 9-10.L.CSE.1-2 9-10.L.KL.2	Literature: Nonfiction and Fiction, Reading, Vocabulary, Convention Standards Novel of choice by teacher Unit 2: Survival: “The Cost of Survival,” “The Seventh Man,” “The Moral Logic of Survivor Guilt,” “The Key to Disaster Survival?” “The Voyage of the James Caird from The Endurance CFA #1: Writing Narrative (“The Seventh Man”) 9_English_CFA_#1	75	Yes
Argumentative Writing	Weeks 10-14	9-10.W.TTP.1	Writing: Argumentative (Survivor Guilt) CFA #2: Final Constructed Response Using the TNReady Rubric 9_English_CFA_#2	34-38	Yes
TNReady Test Prep	Weeks 14-15	9-10.RL.KID.1 9-10.RL.CSE.4-6 9-10.RI.KID.1-3 9-10.RI.CSE.4-6 9-10.RI.KID.2 9-10.RI.CS.4-6 9-10.RI.IKI.8	Performance Coach Lessons: #4 Analyze Literature, #5 Articles, #6 Persuasive Texts CFA #6: Informational Text Selections (“To Remember a Lecture Better”) 9_English_CFA_#6	55	Yes
Unit 4 <i>My Perspectives</i>	Weeks 17-18	9-10.RL.KID.3 9-10.RL.CS5 9-10.L.VAU.5 9-10.L.CSE.1	Unit 4: Star-Crossed Romances: Historical Context, “The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet”	62	Yes
			<i>EOC State Assessment Fall: November 30-December 17, 2026</i>		

Unit	Time Frame	Standards	Major Topics/Concepts	% of Blueprint	CFA (Y or N)
	3rd Qtr.		Same as 1st Quarter		
	4th Qtr.		Same as 2nd Quarter		
			<i>EOC State Assessment Spring: April 19-May 6, 2027</i>		

Class Requirements:

- * 3-ring binder
- * loose-leaf paper
- * Ink pens (blue or black) **No Pencils**
- * correction tape or pen (White-Out) (optional)
- * highlighter set (optional)
- * Chromebook

Please always have your Chromebook charged before coming to class. Students must have a working school-issued Chromebook to access their student accounts and complete assignments through Google Classroom. Students will complete most assignments and major assessments digitally.

Classroom Rules and Expectations

1. Phones **MUST** be placed in the designated holder for attendance. They must also be turned off, not on vibrate or silent. If your phone causes any disturbance during class, the phone will be confiscated and remain in my possession until 3:00 p.m.
2. Be respectful.
3. Be prepared.
4. Be attentive, participative, and productive, but also be flexible.
5. Smartwatches should be turned off or placed in the designated holders during testing.
6. Good attendance, listening to directions, and following established procedures are essential for a successful semester.
7. Complete all assignments before the due dates and deadlines.

Grading Policy:

Assessments (Tests, Essays, Major Projects) 65%
Homework, Quizzes, and In-class independent work 35%

Honors English:

Assessments (Tests, Essays, and Major Projects) 70%
Homework, Quizzes, and In-class work: 30%

Cheating and plagiarism, in any form, will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. I grade a lot of assignments digitally. Students can access the digital copy through Google Classroom.

Semester Average Calculation:

9-Weeks Average multiplied by 42.5 %
9-Weeks Average multiplied by 42.5 %
End of Course State Assessment multiplied by 15%

Make-up Work Policy:

When you are absent, the class will continue. It is your responsibility to make up for any missed work. Missed assignments/assessments receive a zero (0) in the grade book until the student completes the assignment. The Giles County Board of Education's policy on makeup work is also Richland School's policy: The length of time to complete makeup work shall be two days per day missed. Students must make up assessments before or after school. All assessments will be closed after the two-day window. (If you do not complete the scheduled assignments, your access to these assignments will be lost. Therefore, you will earn a zero for the work you failed to finish on time.) No student will be allowed to complete all of the coursework after all deadlines have passed. You cannot change a failing grade into a passing grade at the end of the grading period. Work will not be accepted in this manner, and you will have to either repeat or recover the course if you do not participate throughout the semester as expected.

Late Penalties

All assignments must be completed and submitted on time. Google Classroom and Savvas record the time students submit assignments. Items turned in late will result in an initial 20-point penalty and an additional 10-point deduction per day.

I will enter grades in the Synergy system, allowing parents/guardians to view current grades. If you cannot access ParentVue in Synergy, do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Extra Credit

Individual extra credit will not be given. However, optional opportunities with specific requirements may be offered to all students. Occasionally, some Savvas literary assessments/tests are open-text/open-book.

Student Signature _____
Parent/Guardian Signature _____