

English 1 Syllabus

Mr. Herron

My Philosophy: In the 21st century, our complex society requires citizens to be adept in communication and critical thinking. Mastery of these skills is the purpose of English Language Arts and why students are required to take four years of English to graduate from high school.

Unit Overview: Each of the units outlined below will accompany instruction in vocabulary, grammar, writing, and public speaking. Independent reading (red dot books) months are denoted with an asterisk.

September - Short Stories:

- We will be looking at literary concepts and practicing annotation using the following stories: "Through the Tunnel" by Doris Lessing, "Thank You, Ma'am" by Langston Hughes, "All Summer in a Day" by Ray Bradbury, "The Cask of Amontillado" by Edgar Allan Poe, and others to be determined.

October - *Night* by Elie Wiesel

- This memoir by Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel recounts the time he spent in Nazi concentration camps at the end of World War II. We will discuss literary concepts of theme and tone and the genre of memoir.

*November - Introduction to Research and Informative Writing

- Students will select a topic to research and write about. We will practice research skills, MLA citation and formatting, outlining and writing structure, and perhaps presentations using visual aids.

December - *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

- We will read and discuss this semi-autobiographical novel and respond in writing to themes surrounding it.

January - Poetry

- With the semester switch happening in the middle of January, I do not wish to begin anything that we cannot finish in time. This month will contain a brief unit in Poetry and review from the fall semester.

February - *Romeo and Juliet* William Shakespeare

- Arguably his most recognizable play, R & J is Shakespeare's dive into the impulsivity of love in the teenage mind. We will read the play out loud in class and practice literary analysis writing.

*March - Introduction to Media Literacy

- Media is all around us affecting the way we think and interpret the world. We will dive into how that works.

April - *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

- A classic novel about two men trying to find their piece of the pie during the Great Depression.

May - TBD

- Whatever we still need to accomplish will happen in May. Time permitting, we will read an additional novel.

Reading Counts: In November and March, students will go to the library to select a book of their choice to read. The available books for this are designated with red dots. After reading the book, students will take a ten-question quiz about the novel. These are worth 30 points. Up to two additional Reading Counts books can be read for 10 points of extra credit each semester.

Grading Scale: 10 point scale -

90-100 = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 = D 59 and below = F

Google Classroom: We will use Google Classroom for most assignments and information that I share. It is your responsibility to get into the habit of checking Google Classroom frequently to ensure that you are up to date with classroom information.

Google Classroom Codes:

1st period - coxcq6a 2nd period - cog4klz 6th period - asnj4wj

NoRedInk: Each week, students will work on a grammar assignment through NoRedInk. This year we will explore parts-of-speech, sentence structure, and comma usage.

NoRedInk Codes:

1st period - little crown 68 2nd period - neat ocean 66 6th period - secret llama 72

Materials:

You will need something to write with (pen/pencil) and something to write on (notebook/lined loose-leaf sheets). You will need your Chromebooks most of the time. **MAKE SURE TO CHARGE BEFORE CLASS.** You will also need a folder for anything I hand out.

Mr. Herron's Contact Information:

As of the drafting of this syllabus, I do not have a phone line. The best way for you and your parents/guardians to reach me is through email at sherron@mcpsmt.org. When not in the classroom, I can be found in the office attached to room 177.