

English 2 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 - *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

- This classic novel asks, “What would happen if man is left without societal expectations to keep us in check?” A group of young boys finds out when their plane crashes on a deserted island. We will explore allegory through this unit.

*October - Argumentative Writing

- This month we research, outline, draft, and compose a piece of writing in which you will state a thesis that must be defended. We will practice essay structure and MLA formatting and citation standards.

November - Literature Circles

- This month you will be put into groups and will choose from a selection of novels surrounding the topic of social justice. You and your group will read the book and discuss its themes. At the end, your group will present a social justice theme found in your book.

December - January - *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

- Another example of a boy lost at sea, this time, instead of being joined by other boys, Pi is joined by a Bengal tiger.

February - 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.

March - *The Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Dimaline

- In a futuristic world ravaged by global warming, people have lost the ability to dream, and the dreamlessness has led to widespread madness. The only people still able to dream are North America's Indigenous people, and it is their marrow that holds the cure for the rest of the world.

April - *Othello* by William Shakespeare

- Shakespeare's classic about jealousy and power. We will read this play aloud in class.

*May - Mythology

- Before humans really used science to figure out how the world works, we told stories to make sense of our environment. Within these stories, we will find a lot of what makes us human. Students will work in groups to create multimedia presentations.

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:

Period 5 - twlvw2c Period 7 - nva6w6j

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:

Period 5 - giddy letter 71 Period 7 - daily cap 58

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.