

American Literature Syllabus

Mr. Levy (Room 93)

Overview

American Literature provides an overview of our national heritage and character. It also acquaints students with the literary development of our nation as well as the aspirations, failures, and triumphs that shape the American intellect and spirit. The students develop and apply many writing skills and reading techniques to help them to interact with various forms of literature and understand them as effective forms of expression.

Students will read selections from Colonial to modern authors of American literature. The selections will include journals, speeches, poetry, short stories, essays, plays, and full length novels. In addition to reacting to literature journals, students will write formal papers and give oral presentations. Students will engage in ongoing vocabulary program.

Students will apply word processing and other personal computer programs to help with their writing improvement. Students will present individual and group projects using PowerPoint and other media. Students will conduct web searches on specific topics related to their literary studies.

In this course, students will be given an opportunity to develop mastery of the following school-wide expectations for learning described in the CHS mission statement:

- *To write effectively*
- *To speak and listen effectively*
- *To evaluate the impact of humans and their behavior on the world*
- *To demonstrate artistic knowledge and techniques*
- *To be proficient in the use of information technology*
- *To demonstrate teamwork and leadership skills*
- *To demonstrate respect for individual differences*

Class Requirements

Every day students must bring to class a notebook, journal, writing utensils, a 3 ½" floppy disk, appropriate literature text, and other teacher assigned materials as specified by the teacher.

If you are absent from class, you are responsible for making up the work that you missed. This work includes completion of written assignments and reading on your **own** time. Absences must be kept to a minimum or you will jeopardize your grade and course credit.

Homework assignments comprise 25% of the quarter grade. More importantly, homework reinforces class discussions and exam preparation. Homework must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day it is due. **Students may be detained after school for incomplete or missing homework or failure to bring required materials to class.**

Grading

Daily homework assignments, weekly vocabulary quizzes, literature tests, essays, projects, oral reports, and class participation determine grades, as follows:

Homework/Classwork	25%
Vocabulary	25%
Writing/Projects/Reports	25%
Tests and Quizzes	25%

Student grades are maintained on the Internet at www.mygradebook.com.

The Classword is _____glevy_____ and the password is your PIN number.

Texts and Materials:

Applebee, Arthur N., et. al, The Language of Literature: American Literature. Boston: McDougal Little, 2004.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. The Great Gatsby. New York: MacMillan, 1986.

Hershey, John. Hiroshima

Miller, Arthur. The Crucible. New York: Penguin Books, 1981.

Shostak, Jerome. Vocabulary Workshop Level F. New York. Sadlier-Oxford, 1988.

Steinbeck, John. The Grapes of Wrath. New York: Penguin Books, 1976.

Twain, Mark. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. New York: New American Library, 1959.

Vonnegut, Kurt. Slaughter-House Five

Welter, John I Want to buy a Vowel NY Berkley Books 1996

Wilder, Thornton. Our Town. New York: Harper Collins, 1988.