

English IV

Instructor: Ms. Kelley Maenpaa
Room: Z-7 **Telephone:** (909) 388-6419 Ext. 6231
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Prep Period: 6th: 1:41 p.m. - 2:39 p.m.

Class Description

Welcome to 12th grade English! We will be studying various types of literature throughout the course of the school year, with a focus on British Literature. As such, we will be analyzing texts from the point of view of the writer, as well as the reader in order to determine how literature affects its audiences and in what ways. Our literary analyses will include style, structure, sequence, diction, imagery, and aesthetic appeal in context of the author's purpose and the reader's interpretation. Expanding each student's vocabulary is a focus in this class. A broad knowledge of standard academic English is directly related to a person's ability to read well, write well, and speak well – a cornerstone of our study. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to reflect on our diverse exploration into literature and see the direct connections that can be made to his or her own life.

Goals

- 1) To prepare students for success in life.
- 2) To promote students' imaginative abilities in reaction to literature.
- 3) To help students ascertain and discuss through reading, writing, and verbal dialogue, what is of value in literature.
- 4) To study vocabulary in the context of the literature and to support students as they advance their language and communication skills.

Materials Needed

Each student is required to bring the following to class each day:

- Clean, college ruled paper
- Pencil with eraser
- Blue or black pen
- A purple or green pen for editing
- English binder (with assignments and notes dated, tabbed, and *organized*)
- Separate bellwork journal (spiral or composition notebook)

Optional Materials

Students are encouraged, but not required to obtain or have access to:

- Highlighters for annotating
- Diana Hacker's *A Writer's Reference*
- Axelrod and Cooper's *The St. Martin's Guide to Writing*

Resources

- Textbook - Prentice Hall Literature: *The British Tradition*
- Library/Career Center use
- Supplemental reading materials

- Videos, music, and additional sources

Outside Reading

Students will be expected to read one novel or play on their own, from a selected list, each quarter. Students will complete a corresponding project as each quarter progresses. With permission from the teacher, students may submit an alternate reading. The teacher has the final decision on whether the literary work is appropriate for these independent exploratory projects.

- **Novels**

- *A Room of One's Own* - Virginia Woolf
- *The Stranger* – Albert Camus
- *As I Lay Dying* – William Faulkner
- *A Passage to India* – E.M. Forster
- *Brave New World* – Aldous Huxley
- *Cry, the Beloved Country* – Alan Paton
- *Slaughterhouse Five* – Kurt Vonnegut
- *Rain of Gold* – Victor Villaseñor
- *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* – James Joyce
- *Heart of Darkness* – Joseph Conrad
- *Picture of Dorian Gray* – Oscar Wilde
- *The Great Gatsby* – F. Scott Fitzgerald

- **Plays**

- *Waiting for Godot* – Samuel Beckett
- *The Glass Menagerie* – Tennessee Williams
- *A Doll's House* - Henrik Ibsen
- *The Importance of Being Earnest* – Oscar Wilde

Evaluation/Grading

Assessments will include in-class assignments, quizzes, exams, projects, active student participation, and other forms of evaluation. Grades will be assigned on the point system as follows:

A = 90 – 100%

B = 89 - 80%

C = 79 – 70%

D = 69 – 60%

F = 59 and below

Class Guidelines

 **Above all, everyone will show respect. Be respectful to yourself, to your peers, to staff and faculty, and to school property. This is non-negotiable.**

- ❖ Arrive on time to class. Instruction will begin when the bell rings, at which time all students should be in their seats, with their class materials, and ready to work. To ensure an optimal learning environment, students should remain in their seats unless given permission to do otherwise.
- ❖ Students may bring water to drink. All other snacks and drinks must be covered and put away before coming inside the classroom.
- ❖ Refrain from using cellular phones, PDAs, music players (including iPods), and video games while in class.
- ❖ Maintain class-appropriate language and mature behavior. Profanity, put-downs, and/or slurs will not be tolerated. It is imperative that everyone know the difference between language appropriate for the work place, and therefore school, and language among friends.
- ❖ Do not deface or destroy school property and/or materials.
- ❖ Avoid personal grooming, sleeping, and talking out of turn in class. At all times, students should be focused and on task.
- ❖ Class participation is essential for the most effective learning experience. As a portion of the students' grades are based on thoughtful discussion, it remains the student's duty to come to class prepared and ready to verbally discuss or write on the day's topic.
- ❖ Students bear the responsibility to complete all work every day whether points are awarded or not. Should a student need to miss class, it is his/her responsibility to contact the teacher for the work that was done during his/her absence.
- ❖ Extra credit is only given in whole class form and as the learning opportunity arises. Students may discuss options of their own with the teacher, but should be aware that the assignment must be applicable to the entire class.
- ❖ Students are expected to observe academic honesty. Plagiarism and cheating will not be accepted in any form.
- ❖ All school rules are to be followed both inside and outside of the classroom.

Note: All policies may be subject to change due to teacher or school policy changes and/or discretion.

Consequences

First Offense: Verbal warning

Second Offense: Student conference (with possible seat change) and/or parent/guardian contact

Third Offense: Parent contact with possible class suspension

Fourth Offense: Parent conference with possible class suspension

Fifth Offense: Administrative referral

The Partnership Promise

All students deserve the opportunity to strive for academic excellence. During this unique period where curiosity repeatedly meets achievement, students are continually learning more about themselves and the world around them. As a teacher, it is more than just my job to help them in this quest; I hold myself accountable as both an educator upholding the principles of social justice, as well as an individual in a democratic society.

The symbiotic nature of teaching allows for the ultimate exchange of ideas. This is not just optimistic idealism: this is the reality that can be brought forth with the hard work and participation of a room full of learners – teacher and students alike. With a foundation of compassion, fairness, and firmness, I resolve to keep the classroom a safe haven. It will always be a place for knowledge to flourish and friendships to forge.

A teacher can forever alter the course of her students’ lives. The best teacher will ensure that her actions are advantageous and thus, her students well-prepared to greet every challenge with the understanding and confidence of a true scholar. This is my mission.

In order to have a successful year together – student, teacher, and supporters – it is my hope that we can work as a team to create a positive atmosphere for all. In order to do that, I realize that communication among each of these key players is essential. Therefore, I would like to extend my end of this agreement:

- ✚ **I resolve** to treat my students with compassion, fairness, and firmness. I am open-minded and willing to be flexible to meet the needs of each student.
- ✚ **I resolve** to earn the respect of all of my students, just as each of them will earn mine and that of one another. Respect is not a gift to be given away without trust. The student-teacher collaboration cannot thrive without mutual respect.
- ✚ **I resolve** to keep the classroom a safe sanctuary. Walking through the door and into our classroom means leaving negativity behind. We are here to learn in an environment that is always encouraging and stimulating.
- ✚ **I resolve** to create an interesting and demanding English class. There will be much to do everyday; I will endeavor to make learning the fun activity that it is.
- ✚ **I resolve** to be committed to teaching every student, every day to the best of my abilities. I am dedicated to being a lifelong learner, just as I am a lifelong teacher.
- ✚ **I resolve** to be available for any help a student may need. With advance notice, I am willing to assist with tutoring before school, during lunch, and after school.
- ✚ **I resolve** to keep parents and guardians involved at all times – not all only when problematic issues arise, but also to celebrate the many great achievements we are bound to experience this year.
- ✚ **I resolve** to respond to all communication from students, parents, and guardians within a 24 hour time frame, barring any unforeseen circumstance. I welcome the opportunity to discuss your student’s progress.

These are just some of the ways that I will be constantly striving to ensure that everyone is achieving their goals. Again, do not hesitate to contact me. I truly do enjoy hearing from students' parents and guardians.

Please sign the third and final page of this Partnership Promise so that I know you are familiar with it. Send it back with your student by Friday, August 28th.

Thank you!

Kelley Maenpaa
English Teacher

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E-mail: kelley.maenpaa@sbcusd.com

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I/We have read the entirety of The Partnership Promise and am/are retaining pages 1 and 2 for my/our records. I/We have also read the Welcome Letter and am/are aware of the teacher's contact information.

Video Permission

A small number of videos will be used throughout the course in order to support the curriculum. All videos will be directly related to subject matter and have been screen to maintain appropriate content. All videos will be SBCUSD compliant.

Student Name: _____ **Class Period:** _____

Name(s) of Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

Signature(s) of Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

Contact Information

- Preferred Telephone Number:

- Preferred Email Address:

Questions

Comments