



Trimester Course Syllabus 2013-2014

Name of Course: **English 9A**

Trimester: **x1 2 3**

Teacher Name: Sam Ortiz

Grand Ledge High School: Office - (517) 925-5815

Teacher's Direct Phone Number: (517) 925-5458

Contact Times: 7:00-7:45, 10:30 – 12:00, 2:45 – 4:00

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Purpose/Course Description: This is the first of the core English classes that students need to take in order to graduate. Selections from novels, short stories, and non-fiction will be read and analyzed. Instruction in composition will also be emphasized, with a focus on proper formatting of written work. Included will be reading and writing strategies intended to help students with the ACT.

Topics, Key Concepts:

Writing:

During the year you will generate a collection of personal, creative, and expository writing while continuing to employ the steps of the writing process. You will continue to utilize grammar, mechanics, and spelling to clarify word choice. These pieces will be extensions of critical and creative responses generated from literature.

Reading:

You will be analyzing selections of fiction and non-fiction from literature, your textbook, and handouts. You will also be reading novels as a class. Reading often generates discussion and classroom activities. Each student will be expected to participate.

Units of Study: (The schedule is tentative and subject to change.)

Week 1 Literary Terms

Weeks 2-4 Night

Weeks 5-6 Grammar

Week 7-8 Writing Paragraphs

Weeks 9-11 Tree Girl

Week 12 ACT Practice



Textbooks Used and Other Sources: Elements of Literature 3rd Course – Holt, Rinehart, & Winston; Night by Elie Wiesel; Tree Girl by Ben Mikaelson

Materials Needed (Supplies Suggested): pen, pencil, notebook, folder, highlighters, USB storage device

Methods of Instruction: reading, discussion, journaling, study questions, essay writing (process writing using graphic organizers and models), self analysis and peer analysis practice through guided questions, evaluation and critiquing of literature

Evaluation/Grade Calculations:

Assignment	Weight
Essays/Papers	35%
Tests/Projects	30%
Daily Work	25%
Participation	10%

The trimester grade is calculated using the following percentages:

- 95% - trimester average
- 5% - final assessment

In order to pass the trimester, you must earn 60% overall and you must write the required essay for this class.

Types of Evaluation and Assessment: In-class correction of daily assignments, process writing check, graded essays, tests, quizzes, projects, presentations, discussion.

Grading Scale:

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+

73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
0-59	F



Assignment Expectations: Essays should follow the MLA format. Each assignment, test, quiz, etc., should have the student's name date, hour, and assignment name in the upper left hand corner. Assignments are due at the beginning of the hour of the due date unless otherwise specified.

Make up work is due within two days of your absence (2 days make-up is allowed for each day absent) or the grade becomes a zero. Tests and quizzes may usually be made up during class time; or you may schedule a time before or after school.

Late Assignments: Work not handed in at the assigned time will be considered late; for each day late, 10% will be deducted from the original grade.

Classroom Procedures

Student Responsibilities expectations:

Students are expected to:

Respect the people, equipment, and furnishings of room 221

Be in the classroom and prepared to learn when the chimes sound

Do not interfere with your learning or the learning of others

Be responsible with food and drinks

Follow the rules of the Student Handbook

Consequences: Students who chose to break a rule:
If you choose to break a rule

First Time: You will receive a warning.

Second Time: You will stay 15 minutes after school.

Third Time: You will stay 30 minutes after school and parents called.

Fourth Time: Referral written and student will be sent to the office.

Severe Disruptions: Student sent immediately to the office.

Passes: Ask for permission, then fill out the Hall Pass log with your name, the time you leave, and the number of passes you have used. When you return, enter the time of your return in the Hall Pass log.

When students abuse passes or do not fill out the pass log, passes will be limited to 5 per trimester. Once you have used your 5 passes, you will not be permitted to leave the room. Use them wisely.



Cheating: The act of obtaining answers or completing assignments in a fraudulent or deceitful manner. Disciplinary action will be determined by staff and administrators. Possible zero grade for assignment and possible suspension. (One hour – three days)

Plagiarism Policy: Academic dishonesty is unethical behavior that in any way violates the standards of scholarly conduct. It includes such behaviors as cheating on assignments, or examinations, plagiarizing, submitting the same or any segment of a paper written by another person, or copying any information from the internet, cliff notes/spark notes, e-notes, or any other text (including books, magazines, encyclopedias, etc.). Also included in academic dishonesty is knowingly or intentionally helping another violate any part of this policy. Academic dishonesty includes allowing someone to copy/cheat, and students will be found guilty of completing assignments in a fraudulent or deceitful manner. All students involved will have consequences. Students participating in academic dishonesty will be given a zero for the assignment.

Plagiarism is the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources. It includes, but is not limited to, verbatim use of a quote without quotation marks and adequate documentation, submission of a paper prepared by another person as one's own work, using the ideas, facts, words, or data of someone else and claiming them as your own or not documenting ideas, facts, words, or data gathered during research. Rewording someone else's work and not documenting the source is also considered plagiarism.

Plagiarism is always a serious offense. However, as this is an English class, it becomes even more reprehensible and will be dealt with to the fullest extent. Representing someone else's words, work or thoughts as your own is plagiarism. Purchasing a paper and submitting it as your own work is plagiarism.

For the first offense of plagiarism, students will be given the opportunity to write the paper to earn up to a 50% of the earned grade. The student's name will be put on the list of plagiarizing students. In order to write the paper, the student will be expected to complete a unit on plagiarism and parenthetical documentation. All subsequent offenses will result in a zero for the paper and possibly a zero for the course.

Attendance: Grand Ledge High School's attendance policy is based on two facts. First of all, it is the school's task to teach promptness and responsibility. Good attendance habits in school will help make students reliable adults. Moreover, their attendance record becomes part of their permanent record. Many employers consider attendance to be equally as important as a student's grade point average.

Reporting Procedures:



- Documentation in the form of a phone call or written note must be received by the attendance office for each absence (517) 925-5818.
- Documentation must be received within 48 hours of the student's return to class.

Documentation will be kept in the student's attendance file. This is significant in the appeals process.

Attendance/Tardy:

The High School attendance/tardy policy is available on-line in the student handbook at:

<http://www.glbs.k12.mi.us/ourschools/grandledgehighschool/>

Additional Operational Information: Please feel free to stop in before or after school to discuss a problem or ask for help. If you are having difficulties with the course material, please let me know right away so we can make arrangements for extra help. I encourage students to advocate for themselves. Your grade is your responsibility. Consistent efforts result in positive learning and grades.



Student information & syllabus sign-off – English 9A

Student's Name: _____

(please print clearly)

Student's e-mail: _____

(please print clearly)

Parent's Name: _____

(please print clearly)

Parent's e-mail: _____

(please print clearly)

Home phone number: _____

Parent's daytime phone number: _____

Does your child need front-row seating due to vision or hearing issues?

Yes _____ No _____

Does your child have any health issues I should be aware of in the classroom?

I have received and read Mr. Ortiz's syllabus.

Student Signature

Parent Signature