

8th Grade – Thalia : The Year of Abundance (Love)
Syllabus for September 18, 2017

All the world will be your enemy, Prince with a Thousand Enemies, and whenever they catch you, they will kill you. But first they must catch you, digger, listener, runner, prince with the swift warning. Be cunning and full of tricks and your people shall never be destroyed.

- Richard Adams. Watership Down

"Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him."

- John 14:23

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Course Overview:

The purpose of the 8th grade Literature/Composition class is to learn to read some of the greater works of Western literature, discuss ideas, themes and imagery, and learn how to respond to these works. Students will be asked to read assigned works both in printed form and on the internet. Some of the texts will be in class copies, some, however will become the property of the student. Students will be asked to discuss these works both in class and in written form beginning with paragraphs and working toward writing analytical essays.

Course Expectations:

1. Students are expected to do nightly homework consisting either of reading assignments, compositions, or review.
2. They are also asked to learn the skill of discussion and contribute readily in the classroom, expressing their judgements, asking questions and debating ideas both of the professor and of each other. This is a skill that will be taught in class.
3. Students are expected to memorize certain key terms and concepts presented in class.
4. Students are expected to take any scheduled quizzes or tests.
5. They are expected to learn how to write a five sentence paragraph with a topic sentence and supporting evidence and they will be asked to write summary, persuasive, and analytical paragraphs by the end of the year.
6. Students will be asked to compose three papers during the course of the year; one summary paper, one compare/contrast essay, and one analytical essay. Essays will be submitted in electronic format as an attachment to an email (see my address above) AND in printed format following the parameters given in class.
7. Students are expected to be obedient to the school and class rules, courteous to one another and the teacher, and always to comport themselves in a manner worthy of their inalienable dignity as young men and young women.

Trimester Grading

1. Homework	10%
2. Literature discussion	10%
3. Literature quizzes	15%
4. Literature tests	20%
5. Paragraphs	20%
6. Compositions (3)	20%
7. General composure & obedience	5%

Nota bene: for every graded assignment the student will receive a Pass/Fail (0/1) grade in the gradebook (visible to parents) the day the work is due - followed by a separate percentage grade in the gradebook that reflects the quality of the work. So if the report is due on Tuesday the student receives either a 0/1 or a 1/1 depending on if the work is turned in. The 0 turns into a 1 when the work is received (regardless of the lateness). So there is no penalty for the lateness in the grade – however, the grade remains a zero until the work is turned in. Work turned in receives full credit in the percentile grade regardless of its lateness (though the later the work the less likely I am to give it my full concern). Grades do solidify at the end of Trimester, though; so a 0/1 and a 0/100 become permanent at some point. Work turned in at the last minute (within two days of the end of the Trimester) receives a 50% unless otherwise negotiated with the teacher. Work not turned in by the cutoff date receives a 0% unless otherwise negotiated with the teacher.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Plagiarism is a serious academic crime! Charles Colton may have been correct in saying,

Nachahmung ist die aufrichtigste Form der Schmeichelei
Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery

but Oscar Wilde was more correct when he quipped,

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery that mediocrity can pay to greatness.

In order to become great themselves, students must learn to distinguish between imitation and plagiarism. When imitating we model our work after the masters for a time until we learn to master the thing ourselves. Doing the work is like lifting weights; if the student does it himself he becomes strong; if he lets someone else do it that other person becomes strong leaving the student weak. Each student, therefore, is expected to do his or her own work, resisting the urge to plagiarize and imitating the masters until they become masters themselves. Anyone found breaking this expectation will lose all credit for the test/quiz/assignment in question and receive a disciplinary mark.

TEXTS USED DURING THE YEAR

	Title	Author	ISBN	#of pages
Student Owned	1. The Road Not Taken	Robert Frost	0486275507	128
Class Set	2. Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson	0486275590	122
	3. 100 Great Short Stories	various	0486790215	
Student Owned	4. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight	Anonymous (Raffel)	0451528182	76
Class Set	5. The Hobbit	JRR Tolkien	0618260307	320
Student Owned	6. Romeo & Juliet	Shakespeare	0486275574	96
Student Owned	7. A Tale of Two Cities	Charles Dickens	1853260398	352
Student Owned	8. Great Sonnets	various	0199535795	112
				1270

Students are expected to conduct themselves always in an attitude of respect towards their instructor, each other, and their materials and work. Disrespect toward instructor or fellow students will result in disciplinary action. Disrespect toward materials and work will result in refusal of work, loss of credit, or repurchasing of text.

No food or drink is allowed in class except by special permission from the instructor.

This syllabus may be subject to revision as the course progresses.