



**RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Course Overview**



**Ninth Grade English: Literature and Composition Advanced
Course # 05010112**

General Information

Credits: 1.0

Weighted: No

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Length: Full Year

Format: Meets Daily

Grade: 9

Course Description:

This course is designed to transition students from middle school reading and language arts to the rigorous expectations of a high school English classroom. With a focus on the study of literature, writing, vocabulary, and communication skills, students establish successful study skills and appropriate learning behavior. Additionally, this course helps students develop research and speaking/listening skills. Through the genre approach to literature, students read short stories, novels, drama and poetry, emphasizing the distinct elements and analysis of each type of literature. The curriculum for this course is aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards in order to prepare the students for success on the Literature Keystone Exam in 10th grade.

Course Objectives:

- Students will read, understand, and respond to informational texts – with an emphasis on comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and making connections among ideas and between texts with a focus on textual evidence.
- Students will read and respond to works of literature – with an emphasis on comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and making connections among ideas and between texts with a focus on textual evidence.
- Students will write for different purposes and audiences. Students will write clear and focused text to convey a well-defined perspective and appropriate content.
- Students will present appropriately in formal speaking situations, listen critically, and respond intelligently as individuals or in group discussions.
- Students will apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

Common Assessments:

Common Assessments: Administered to all students in a course regardless of the course level. The goal of the common assessment is to measure the students' progress towards major state standards. All common assessments in English focus on the assessment of the most important skills of the course. Universally accepted content such as literary elements may also be assessed. Each course will have a minimum of one common assessment per marking period. The course assessments are as follows:

Summer Reading:

Students will complete a common, on-demand writing assignment based on their selected summer reading book. Prompts will address a specific literary element and its impact on the novel as a whole. (For example: conflict, setting, character, etc.)

Short Story Literary Elements and Devices:

Students will read a common cold passage from a short story that they have not previously read in class. Students will be asked to apply their knowledge of literary elements from the short story unit to the new text.

Nonfiction Elements and Techniques:

Students will read a common cold nonfiction passage from a publically released Keystone exam. Students will apply their knowledge of nonfiction elements to the new text.

Dramatic Elements and Devices:

Students will read an excerpt from *Romeo and Juliet*. Students will apply their knowledge of the elements and devices of drama to the excerpt.

Other Possible Assessments: Will vary by teacher, but may include the following:

Independent Reading

Discussion Activities

Vocabulary Assessments

Essays: Analytical, Expository, Reflective, Narrative, Persuasive

Major Units of Study:

Unit One: The Short Story: The Building Blocks of Fiction

Unit Two: The Novel: A Human Experience

Unit Three: The Poem: Sonnets and Epics

Unit Four: The Play: Elements of Drama

Unit Five: Nonfiction: Analyzing Informational Texts

Unit Six: Research (to be taught in conjunction with any other unit)

Other possible vocabulary, grammar, and independent reading units will vary by teacher.

Materials & Texts

Required Texts and Resources:

Common Texts and Resources: (All 9th Grade English Courses, excluding Integrated)

- *Romeo and Juliet*
- *Of Mice and Men*

Common Course Texts and Resources: (All 9th Grade Advanced English Courses)

- *Adventures in Reading: Pegasus Edition* (Textbook)
- "The Most Dangerous Game"
- "The Gift of the Magi"
- Excerpts from *The Odyssey*

Supplemental Texts and Resources (use may vary according to teacher discretion and students' needs):

- Other teacher-created or teacher-selected texts and resources needed in order to differentiate instruction and meet the needs of all students
- Selected materials from *Laying the Foundation*, an organization that provides teacher resources
- Public Release Keystone Exam items
- Other possible short stories could include: "Split Cherry Tree", "The Cask of Amontillado", "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty", "The Lottery", "The Scarlet Ibis", "The Necklace", "The

Lady or the Tiger”

- Other possible novels could include: *Lord of the Flies*, *Ellen Foster*, *A Separate Peace*
- Selections from *Great Expectations* and/or *A Tale of Two Cities*
- Variety of Shakespearean Sonnets
- Variety of nonfiction selections, including *Common Threads: Core Readings by Method and Theme*

Summer Assignment

Radnor High School publishes an annual summer reading list. Students should refer to the Radnor High School English web page for summer reading expectations.