



RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Course Overview



Ninth Grade English: Literature and Composition Honors
Course # 05010110

General Information

Credits: 1.0
Weighted: Weighted
Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Length: Full Year
Format: Meets Daily
Grade: 9

Course Description:

This course focuses on various themes in literature, as well as on literary genres, and seeks to develop the ability to find meaning by asking and answering critical questions. Students are taught to demonstrate an awareness of the principles of literary analysis through individual and group activities and presentations. Opportunities for exploring creative expression and developing critical thinking skills are integral parts of students' study of literature. As students learn to write effectively, they focus on developing their vocabulary as well as on improving the structure of sentences, paragraphs, and essays. Projects also require the growth of library and research skills in addition to speaking and listening skills.

The curriculum for this course is aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards in order to prepare the students to be successful on the Literature Keystone Exams.

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 thematic 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.

Summer Reading:

Students will complete a common on demand writing prompt based on their selected summer reading. Prompts will address a specific literary element and its impact on the novel as a whole,

for example, conflict, setting, character, etc.

Nonfiction Elements and Techniques:

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

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.

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: Other possible assessments will vary by teacher, but may include the following:

Independent Reading

Discussion Activities

Vocabulary Assessments

Essays: Analytical, Expository, Reflective, Narrative

Creative Writing (Narrative, Short Story, Adaptation of section of poem/novel)

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 and Speaking/Listening: Gathering and Sharing Information

Other possible vocabulary and grammar 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 Honors English Courses)

- Elements of Literature- Holt, Rinehart and Winston (Textbook)
- *Great Expectations*
- *Lord of the Flies*
- Excerpts from *The Odyssey*
- "The Gift of the Magi"; "The Necklace"

Supplemental Texts and Resources (use may vary according to teacher discretion and student 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
 - Released 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 Lady or the Tiger," "A Piece of String," "Cask of Amontillado," "The First Seven Years," "Trap of Gold," "The Bet," and "Cold Equations"
 - Other possible novels could include: *Ellen Foster*; *A Separate Peace*, *A Tale of Two Cities*
 - Shakespearean Sonnets
 - Nonfiction selections, including Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers* and *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.