

# English Language Arts- Grade 9 Syllabus 2018-2019

Mrs. Indelicato, Room 206  
[jindelicato@winthrop.k12.ma.us](mailto:jindelicato@winthrop.k12.ma.us)

## Course Description

English/Language Arts courses build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and usually include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Typically, these courses introduce and define various genres of literature, with writing exercises often linked to reading selections. Specifically, the curriculum provides instruction in the different modes of written and oral expression, analytical reading, and media study. We will be working with a variety of texts including novels, poems, short stories, art, film, non-fiction articles, and more.

The College Prep courses cover the same core literature subject matter as the Honors courses. However, Honors students should be prepared to do additional components on assignments and assessments.

## **Required Core Texts:**

- *Appreciation in Reading* (Textbook)
- *Lord of the Flies* By William Golding
- *The Odyssey* By Homer
- *Romeo and Juliet* By William Shakespeare
- *Animal Farm* By George Orwell

These core texts will be supplemented by a number of other materials, in order to strengthen understanding and to help us make connections. Be prepared to do plenty of reading on your own outside of class. Bring your assigned text with you to every class!

## **Course Materials:**

1. Three-ring Binder (2" or larger)
2. Pens/Pencils- **DO NOT COME TO CLASS WITHOUT ONE!**

3. College-ruled white lined paper for your binder
4. Dividers for binder
5. Post-it notes- 2 small packets and 2 large
6. Highlighters- Various colors
7. Planner/Assignment book\*

**\*Homework will be posted on the board and on Schoology. So there is never a reason not to know what it is.**

### **Policies and Student Expectations:**

In my classroom, you are expected:

- To have an open mind and be creative!
- To be on time and be prepared to work when the bell rings
- To always come to class prepared with binder, paper, pens/pencils, appropriate textbooks, completed assignments, and any other materials that you are instructed to bring
- To follow all directions given by the teacher or included on an assignment;
- To meet all deadlines (Assignments are due at the beginning of each class on the due date);
- To be academically honest (plagiarizing and cheating will **NOT** be tolerated);
- To respect other students and the teacher by being attentive when others are speaking, raising your hand to speak, and not being disruptive;
- To be courteous to others by respecting their personal space;
- To actively participate in group discussions and activities;
- Do not infringe on anyone else's right to learn
- To follow ALL school rules as described in the Student Handbook;
- To sign out prior to leaving the classroom (e.g. bathroom break or Nurse).

### **Technology:**

We are lucky to live in an era when technology is abundant and can be used to help us explore the world around us both in and out of school. However, being part of this technological age means understanding how to use it appropriately and responsibly:

- Chromebooks must be charged and ready to use before class.
- Cell phones **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED DURING CLASSTIME**. Any cell phone seen during class will be confiscated and kept until the end of the day. Every time I need to collect your phone/speak to you about cell phone use in my classroom will result in a deduction of points on your average.
- **Do not ask me to charge your cell phone in my class**

### **Consequences for failing to meet classroom expectations are:**

- 1st Offense: Verbal Warning
- 2nd Offense: Parent contact/Before-School Detention/ Point Deduction
- 3rd Offense: Sent to Principal/VP

### **Late Work and Tardiness**

All assignments should be completed on time for full credit. I do not accept late homework. Life is about deadlines; if it's late its no good. For major papers and projects, you will lose half a letter grade for each day the paper/project is late. Quizzes and tests must be made up within a week, or it will receive a zero. All other late or incomplete work will not be accepted. You are responsible for any and all missed work.

Assignments should be handed to me in hard copy form or submitted through Schoology - NOT via e-mail. \*\*Don't say you don't have a printer/ it didn't work. Ask a friend or submit your document through the online platform (Schoology) as a Word document or PDF. If you do not do this, I will not be able to open the document and, therefore, you will not receive credit.

Being on time is not only polite, but it is essential to getting a good grade in this class. Writing assignments will be due at the beginning of class. If you are going to be late to class, you must have a pass signed by a teacher or staff member. If the tardy is unexcused, you will get a zero for the homework or class work that you missed.

### **Homework**

Homework will be assigned almost every day, and should be completed by the beginning of class on the day it is due. A common practice will be to submit electronically, but if submitted by hand it should be neatly written and appropriately labeled. Occasionally, I may give reading quizzes also known as DIRT quizzes (Did I Read This?) on the material. Homework will be graded using a check system:

Check = Satisfactory (Full Credit – Homework is neat, complete, readable, and shows effort)  
Check – = Unsatisfactory (Half Credit – Homework shows little effort or is not fully completed)  
0 = Unacceptable (No Credit – Homework is missing, mostly incomplete, or unreadable)

### **Absences**

In the case of an absence, you will have **ONE DAY** for every absence to make up work. It is your responsibility to get and complete the assignment on time. Regardless, if you miss class, homework assignments will be posted on Schoology and, so there is never reason to not know what it is. If you know in advance that you are going to be absent, please see me ASAP during my office hours so we can set up a schedule for you to make up your missed work. As

mentioned previously, **if you miss a test or quiz, you must make it up within ONE WEEK of its assigned date or you will receive a zero.**

### **Assignments**

- All assignments are due at the beginning of the period.
- All reading must be completed by the assigned dates.
- Pop quizzes are frequently given to measure reading completion and comprehension.
- No credit will be given for late homework.
- No credit will be given for work with “fringe”.
- No credit will be given for work done in ink other than blue or black.
- Typing is **required** for major assignments. You must always double space, use Times New Roman, size 12 font, and employ one inch margins. (Don’t try any tricks to add length to your papers, I know them all).
- If an assignment is to be submitted through Google Drive it is the student’s responsibility to get the work uploaded on time and to give me permission to open the document. If I cannot open the document, you will not receive credit.

### **Extra Help:**

I am available after school every day, unless called away for a school related meeting. Extra help hours will be taking place after school from 2:20-2:50 PM. I want to be here for all of my students and I know that some people have obligations in the afternoons, so with an appointment, I would be happy to meet with anyone before school. Students are encouraged to stay for extra assistance on any assignment he or she is struggling with. This is also the time to discuss returned work, grades, or any other issues that may arise. Any parent or guardian who would like to meet, please email/call ahead to schedule a time.

### **Grading**

- **Tests/Projects** – 25%
- **Papers** – 25%
- **Informal writing and quizzes** – 20%
- **Homework** – 15%
- **Participation** – 15%

## Syllabus Contract

Please read and sign below, indicating your agreement with the syllabus:

I have read the class syllabus thoroughly, and I understand it to be a contract for my year in this class. I understand the expectations that my teacher has for me, behavior-wise and academically, and I will meet them or accept the consequences.

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**Student's Name (print)**

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**Student's Signature**

**Date**

### PARENTS/GUARDIANS

I have read this class syllabus thoroughly, and I understand it to be a contract for my son or daughter's year in this class. I will do everything that I can to encourage him/her to follow the rules and perform to this best of his/her ability so that he/she can succeed in this class.

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**Parent or Guardian's Name (print)**

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**Parent or Guardian's Signature**

**Date**

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**Parent or Guardian's Email Address**

**Please return to Mrs. Indelicato by our next class. This will count as a homework grade.**