

9th Grade ELA Syllabus 2020-21

Teacher: Mrs. Birch

Curriculum Goals and Books:

In this class we will use the Utah Core Standards to develop students' skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Students will read and discuss a variety of novels in class this year. The novels were chosen to engage and challenge the students. Students should expect to complete assignments and write an essay for each class novel. The expected novels for this year include: *The Odyssey* by Homer, *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, and "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare. We will also read a variety of short stories and poems as support to our novels.

Materials You Will Need For Class:

- Chromebook
- Reading Book
- A Positive Attitude

Contact Information:

My contact information can be found on the South Jordan Middle School web page, but I can also be reached by email: mallory.birch@jordandistrict.org

Classroom Library Books:

Sometimes we check out books to students for their use at home. Our classroom libraries are largely purchased with personal money. We accept book donations and we request that lost or damaged books are replaced. If a school owned book is lost or damaged, a fine will be assessed.

*Due to Covid-19, we may not be able to check out classroom books at this time.

Homework Policy:

Students will be required to read for 20 minutes at home every night. Every quarter, students will be assigned one book project. This is largely done on their own. Some time in class may be given to work on their book projects, but a large majority of these projects will be required to be done at home. Writing projects will also be assigned that may require to be finished at home. Anything not finished in class will need to be completed at home. I do accept late work.

Grading:

Standards-Based Grading gives a score based on a student's understanding of a specific concept or skill. A score of 4 means the student understands and can effectively use a concept. A score of 1 means the student does not understand the concept and is not able to apply it. Letter grades are earned based on the following 4 point conversion scale (please note, this is NOT a percentage scale):

4-Point Scale	Letter Grade	4-Point Scale	Letter Grade	4-Point Scale	Letter Grade
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4.0 - 3.30	A	2.64 - 2.50	B-	1.99 - 1.85	D+
3.29 - 3.0	A-	2.49 - 2.35	C+	1.84 - 1.65	D
2.99 - 2.85	B+	2.34 - 2.15	C	1.64 - 1.50	D-
2.84 - 2.65	B	2.14 - 2.0	C-	1.49 - 0	F

Students: you need to check Skyward at least once a week and actively ask questions about your work and missing assignments. This is your grade. It is your responsibility.

Parents: You should more than likely help your student check Skyward during the first two or three months of school on a weekly basis. This will help avoid a lot of tears, stress, and frustration for both you and your student.

Please contact the counseling center for your user name and password.

Grade Breakdown:

80% Standards-Based Assessments

20% Daily Assignments, Homework, and Participation

Absent Work:

Yes, we did do something important while you were absent. It is your responsibility to check with me the day you return to class to find out what you missed. Check Canvas to check the calendar and find links to handouts that you may have missed. If you are absent, it is recommended that you attend a PROWL class in my classroom to help with lessons that you missed. Most of our assignments will be submitted through Canvas. That way, when you are absent, you will have the opportunity to work on your missing assignments. Any assignment you are absent for will be entered as a ZERO until it is turned in. I will accept late work until the last Friday before the end of the quarter (No exceptions, this gives sufficient extended time to students who need it).

Tardy Policy:

Don't be tardy. It distracts the class and you miss important information, and it will affect your citizenship. We support the school tardy policy outlined in the student planner. Students must be in their seats when the bell rings. Tardies remain permanently on school records, and count toward school consequences.

Citizenship:

Honors (H)	0-5 citizenship marks (or 0-1 tardies)
Satisfactory (S)	6-10 citizenship marks (2 tardies)
Needs Improvement (N)	11-15 citizenship marks (3 tardies)
Unsatisfactory (U)	16+ citizenship marks (4+ tardies)

*Please refer to the Student Handbook to see how citizenship will be handled.

The following will get you a citizenship mark:

Being unprepared, eating in class, passing notes, using technology without permission, arriving tardy, plotting a mutiny, behaving inappropriately, or anything else that makes your teacher question her career choice or gives her twitches (this list is incomplete because 9th graders are smart and come up with new and ingenuitive behaviors that are not classroom appropriate). Citizenship grades are recorded in Skyward for your viewing pleasure.

Citizenship marks can be made up by making arrangements to come in and work on classroom tasks before or after school for 10 minutes per mark.

Classroom Rules:

Human Kind: Be Both. Classroom rules will focus on choice, respect, and responsibility. Cell phones are allowed for educational reasons only. Phones that are being used for these purposes should be in plain sight. Phones being used inappropriately will be taken. Any earbuds that are visible will also be taken.

Consequences:

The following things may occur when a student chooses not to follow classroom rules:

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|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Verbal warning | Parent contact |
| One minute after class | Out-of-class isolation |
| Seat changes | Referral to administration |
| In-class isolation | |

*Special Circumstances will be discussed as needed.

Really, I just want to teach and most students just want to learn. If you are making it hard for those two things to happen, you deserve these consequences. Please be respectful so all can learn.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

Don't do it. To plagiarize is defined as taking ideas and writings of another and passing them off as one's own. Students caught plagiarizing will be given a zero for the assignment. This includes: turning in someone else's paper as your own, copying a friend's paper before class (or having another teacher catching you copying work in his/her classroom), failing to cite a source, or copying an author's exact words and passing them off as your own.

If you are caught cheating, the teacher will notify the administration and contact the parents if cheating is suspected. The student will be given a failing grade for that particular test or assignment.

Signatures:

I have read the disclosure statement for 9th Grade Language Arts. I understand what is expected in this class, and I support the policies outlined. I will contact the teacher with any questions or concerns.

Teacher's signature

Administrator's signature
