

English 9

Ms. Garvoille [GAR-voy]
2012 – 2013

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(757) 898-0530
10:10-12:10 or after 2:10 

Key Information

- There is a class website: <http://garvoille.wordpress.com>. A class agenda, homework downloads, and announcements are posted daily. You can also follow Ms. G. on Twitter for homework and project reminders.
- Grades are available on Edline.
- Copying (from a friend or the internet) will result in a detention, no matter how minor the assignment.
- Extra help available Monday-Thursday until 4:00. You can sign up for a time slot on the door of room 205.

Course Overview

English 9 will prepare you for a rigorous high school experience focused on reading great writing and composing your own. Throughout the year, we will read a variety of stories, novels, essays, memoirs, and plays. We will study grammar through sentence patterns, vocabulary through Greek and Latin word roots, and literary terms and devices as we read. To succeed in this class, you must keep up on your reading and put your all into the writing projects, as they will constitute the majority of your grade. Here's a rough sketch of our four quarters, though it is subject to change based on student readiness:

1 st	Telling the Truth. Text: selected personal essays. Project: Personal memoir.
	Coming of Age. Text: <i>The Outsiders</i> . Project: Collaborative essay.
2 nd	The World We Live In. Text: <i>Night</i> and selected essays. Project: Research-based podcast.
	Mystery in the Everyday: Short Story. Text: Selected short stories. Project: Flash Fiction story.
3 rd	Writing Wikipedia. Text: YA novel of choice. Project: Encyclopedia article.
	Poetry. Text: Assorted poems. Project: Poem memorization and poetry test.
4 th	Becoming a Man: Play. Text: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> . Project: Critical essay and creative adaptation.
	The Quest: Epic. Text: <i>The Odyssey</i> . Project: Close reading essay and / or Socratic seminar.

Grading

YCSD Grading Scale

Weighted Breakdown for English 9:

A 90-100
B 80-89
C 70-79
D 64-69
F 0-63

Projects, Essays, Tests	60 %
Quizzes, Short Writings	30 %
Homework	10 %

Rationale: Grades show your mastery of a certain topic. Mastery is only accomplished after many trial runs and feedback. You will prove your mastery through projects, essays, tests, and quizzes. Grades on those big evaluations make up the majority of your letter grade. Homework is where you practice, make mistakes, and learn from your teacher's comments, so the grade will not count as much because it's only testing how much you understand partway through your learning process. But just because it doesn't count for as large a percentage doesn't mean it's not important. Like an athlete who must practice to do well at the big game, you must do the homework to succeed on the projects.

Materials

1-2" Binder

This may be left in the classroom.

Dividers to organize your into 5

sections:

General Information, Literature, Writing, Vocabulary, Grammar

College-ruled loose-leaf paper

Folder with pockets for English homework only

Pack of 125 3x5 index cards for flashcards (leave at home or in locker)

Donations

Thank you! We will gladly accept **tissues, paper towels, hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, band-aids, pencils, dry-erase markers, technology** (old digital cameras, voice recorders, headphones, or microphones), and **novels on the reading list**.

Books

Students will be issued a textbook that may be kept at home or in a locker. When requested by the teacher, students will bring the textbook to class. Textbooks and paperbacks issued are the responsibility of the student. Our ninth grade textbook is *Literature*, published by McDougal Littell. The replacement cost is **\$80.45**.

Though all books are available through the school, I recommend that students, whenever possible, obtain personal copies that they can write in and highlight.

Below is a list of novel-length texts we will be reading for your **optional** purchase:

- The Outsiders*, by S. E. Hinton. (October)
- Romeo and Juliet*, by William Shakespeare. (March)

Students enrolled in General English may purchase a copy with a side-by-side modern language summary such as *No Fear Shakespeare*.

In addition we may also read one or both of the following:

- Night*, by Elie Wiesel. (December)
- Animal Farm* by George Orwell. (June)

Absences

It is your responsibility to check the class website to print off assignments missed during an absence. If you have to leave early for sports or an appointment, stop by on the day you leave to pick up work or check the website after school. The faster you make up any missed work, the less confused you will be in class the next day.

Copied Work and Late Work

Copied papers get zeros and all students involved in copying or aiding in it will be disciplined according to school policy. If you did not do the assignment, you should talk to me before class or hand in your incomplete assignment. You will have more dignity and a higher grade.

Homework is meant for you to practice a certain skill at a certain time. If you do it late, you've missed the purpose of the assignment. Therefore, late homework will not be accepted. If you earn an F (below 64) on three homework assignments, you will be required to come to tutoring after school or during lunch. If you fail a reading quiz, you will be required to come to reading remediation at lunch or after school. If you don't come to tutoring or reading remediation when assigned, you will serve after-school detention. Attending required remediation and tutoring will improve the assignment grade.

If you have a project or essay you can't complete on time, you can ask Ms. G. for an extension 24 hours before it is due. With approval, you may turn a project or essay in late with a 7-point penalty. All students can revise essays and projects, regardless of their grade, for a completely new grade within one week of their return. For instance, if you earned a 99 on an essay, you can revise it to try for 100.

Broken Printer?

This is not an excuse for late work. Get the assignment to me on flash drive, email, or pen on paper. If you email, you must email it by midnight the day before it is due. The document must be attached *and pasted into the body of the email* (I cannot open some document types via attachment). Send it to yourself and to me, and be sure to clearly ask me in the email to print it off for you. If you did the assignment on GoogleDocs, make sure it is shared with alexa.garvoille@gmail.com and that you email me by midnight with the request that I print it for you. I will respond to your request by 7:00 the next morning; if I do not respond, it means I did not get your email, and you cannot rely on me to print it. I do not allow printing essays during class on the day they are due. If you need to handwrite an essay, it must be in blue or black ink, written on every other line.

Contact and Extra Help

Email me with your questions and I will get back to you by email or phone! You can also Tweet me, GChat me, or leave a comment on my website. I am available during all lunches in my office, room 211 or the English tutoring room (205), and I stay after school Monday-Thursday until 4:00. If you need help on a certain topic or want to talk to me privately, please sign up on the door of the tutoring room, 205, for a time slot. I am here to help you!