

Language Arts 9A

Introduction

This literature course will help you continue to build critical thinking, interpretation, and communication skills that will carry over into many aspects of your life. We will develop these skills by reading and discussion of literature, studying grammar, and analyzing vocabulary. My hope is that you will not only learn during this course, but you will enjoy both reading and writing.

The course will be divided into four main segments: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Drama and Poetry. Through each of these units we will address different goals and objectives related to reading, writing and speaking. You will be expected to write frequently – both formally and informally. We will study grammar daily through your Daily Grammar Practice book. Vocabulary lessons will be given in the form of worksheets and will be due each Wednesday. You will be expected to keep these sheets in your binder.

Individual student needs will play a major role in the planning of each unit of study. Each of you will work with me to find the tools that will help you to be successful. Assessments, assignments and goals will be designed to meet your needs.

In the end, you should develop the skills you need to communicate clearly and correctly in both written and oral language and interpret information in various settings.

Supplies:

You will need to have all of the following supplies available in class everyday.

- three-ring binder
- notebook dividers
- pencil case for binder
- notebook paper
- Pencils and a blue or black ink pen
- red, pink or green pen for editing work
- a highlighter
- Book flags or small post-it notes
- 3x5 index cards
- highlighter
- Flash drive

Textbooks:

The only textbook for this course will be your Daily Grammar Practice workbook (DGP), which you should keep in your notebook. DGPs will be graded for completion weekly. You will be expected to apply the knowledge you have learned from DGP in your writing.

During the year we will be reading novels as a class. When we read these novels you will be expected to bring them to class daily.

Other readings will often be distributed from various sources. You will be expected to keep these readings in your notebook.

Because many of your readings will be handouts, it will be essential to keep an organized binder for this course.

Grading:

Your grade will be based on the mastery of course objectives. Assessments (45%) (designed to determine whether or not you met the goals) will not necessarily be conventional tests, but may also be projects or papers. Homework (5%) will be used to prepare for upcoming classes, develop independent skills, and assess understanding of skills learned in class. Class work will be used to learn new skills and to assess understanding. DGP workbooks will be graded for completion and count as part of your class work grade. You will often have reading quizzes on material assigned for the evening. Vocabulary work will also count as part of your class work grade. Quizzes and class work (35%) will also be used to assess understanding of material in smaller chunks than tests. Your final exam (15%) will assess your understanding of all goals and objectives covered.

The grading will be based on this scale:

Meets objective with excellence	90 -100	A- to A+
Proficient in skill/objective	80- 90	B- to B+
Approaching proficiency in skill/objective	70 - 80	C- to C+
Well below proficiency in skill/objective	70 and below	D to F

Retakes and Grade Changes:

All assignments and grades are intended for me to see if you mastered the objectives of the course. If you did not master an objective, and received a grade you are unsatisfied with, you do not have to give up. For any assignment you feel like you can improve on, I am willing to discuss ways for you to show mastery of the objective and improve your grade.

Absences and Late work:

If you miss class it is your responsibility to get notes from your fellow students. Any other assignments must be obtained from me. Anything due on the day you missed, must be turned in upon your return. You will lose 10 points for each day that an assignment is late. Assignments will not be accepted after 3 days unless we have set a new due date. If a new date is not set, and an assignment is not turned in after 3 days, you will receive a 0 for the assignment, regardless of what type of assignment it is.

Communication:

Communication is key to success in this course. If you are struggling with an assignment, please be sure to let me know by calling me, sending me an e-mail or finding me on campus. I am available for appointments during the week to provide support. Also, if personal circumstances may prevent you from being able to complete your assignments please let me know in advance. I am willing to work with you to make sure you are able to meet the goals in the class, and understand that life happens. When you communicate clearly with me about problems BEFORE assignments are due, I will be more flexible.

Student Handbook:

It is my expectation that you have read and understand the Temima Student Handbook. All merits and demerits will be determined based on the handbook rules. You will be expected to follow all rules of the school while in my classroom.

Restroom:

In order to limit distractions in class, please limit restroom usage to emergencies only. Also please use the restroom during individual work time rather than lecture time. I am not putting a limit on restroom usage at this time, but I will adjust this policy if necessary. Spending more than 5 minutes in the restroom will result in being marked tardy to class.

Plagiarism

As writers and thinkers, we want to give other writers and thinkers credit for their writing and thoughts. With that in mind plagiarism will not be tolerated in our class. Plagiarism means turning in another person's work as if it was your own. This could include copying and pasting from the Internet, using another student's work, or copying notes or quotes straight from a book. Plagiarism also includes writing another person's idea as if it were your own. Even if you paraphrase the idea, you should give the person credit for it. We will be working throughout the year on how to properly give others credit for their ideas and writing.

If it is found that you did plagiarize another's work, you will either be asked to re-do the assignment or receive a 0 for the assignment depending on the severity of the plagiarism. All violations will be reported to the administration.

Your Responsibilities in the Classroom:

Everyday I will check to see if you have completed your DGP in the first 5 minutes of class. S

Each week you will have a vocabulary assignment that will be due on Wednesday. Every fourth Wednesday, you will have a quiz on the vocabulary from the past 3 weeks.

Most homework assignments will be reading assignments. I will expect that you will be prepared to discuss the reading and have your reading in class. I will give frequent reading quizzes.

Each evening I will grade class "wrap-up" activities that are turned in to the folder on the way out the door. These will help me to see if you understood the lesson that day. You will receive a class wrap up grade each quarter.

We will have many classroom discussions during this course. In order to show respect to everyone, I will only call on students who raise their hands.

I expect you to be engaged in learning in my classroom through the entire period. I will consider your behavior off-task if you have materials on your desk that are not being used for my class.

Ninth Grade Literature Course Objectives:

- Identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of key literary characteristics in a variety of texts (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, etc.) and provide evidence to support understanding
- Identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of theme in literary works and provide evidence to support understanding
- Relate literary works to their historical setting or to their contemporary context
- Identify important ideas and locate support for those ideas within the text
- Understand and acquire new vocabulary and use it correctly
- Evaluate the messages and effects of mass media
- Organize a writing sample
- Demonstrate knowledge of coherent and accurate informational and technical writing
- Use research and technology to support writing
- Use the writing process to develop, revise, and evaluate writing
- Create a works cited page or bibliography for researched writing
- Use MLA format to cite works in written assignments
- Demonstrate understanding of Standard American English
- Apply conventions of Standard American English to formal manuscript requirements