

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors English

Mr. Nguyen / [kenguyen@lwsd.org](mailto:kenguyen@lwsd.org) / Room #213

Office hours: Tues-Fri (7:00-7:30AM) and Mon-Thur (2:25-3:55PM) ~ appointments recommended

*"That's what fiction is for. It's for getting at the truth when the truth isn't sufficient for the truth."*

Tim O'Brien

*"After nourishment, shelter, and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world."*

Philip Pullman

*"Only animals live entirely in the Here and Now. Only nature knows neither memory nor history. But man--let me offer you a definition--is the storytelling animal."*

Graham Swift

### **Course Description:**

The quotes above embody the guiding philosophy of this class. Whether or not we are conscious of them, we are surrounded by stories--texts. Everyone has a story to tell, even scientists and mathematicians. Consequently, studying literature is critical to helping us grow, both personally and intellectually--by opening doors, stretching our minds, developing our imagination, increasing our understanding, deepening our power of sympathy and empathy, and helping us see the beauty in the world around us. We read stories because they reflect the vagaries of life and are expressions of our common humanity. Through the study and discussion of good literature, we will learn not only to make wise personal and social choices, but also to have compassion for all living beings and their endeavors, enabling us to see the worthiness of aims of otherwise seemingly unworthy people. To that end, this college-prep course for sophomores will guide you through different genres of literature including poetry, drama, short fiction, and novels, emphasizing the development of skills in reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary, critical thinking, and communication. Combined with collaborative groups and extended learning projects that develop personal, social, and creative skills, the main course objective is to help students discover their place in the world how they may contribute to its betterment. Major works **may** include but are not necessarily limited to:

- Selected short stories
- Nonfiction essays and articles
- Selected poetry
- William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*
- Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*
- Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*
- Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*
- William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

Since all literature explores what it means to be human, this year's texts will further this exploration by raising other related questions to consider. A sampling:

- Why do we tell stories? How does storytelling function individually and for society at large? What makes for a "good" story?
- What is the essence of human nature? Are human beings naturally evil?
- What are traits of strong leadership? What makes for poor leadership? Why do humans occasionally follow corrupt leaders?
- What does a civilized or orderly society look like? How does society maintain order? What factors contribute to a functioning society? What factors challenge or undermine ideal societies?
- In what ways do scientific advancement and technology present positive and

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negative consequences?

- What has greater impact on human development—nature or nurture?
- What is the ethical relationship between a creator and his creation?
- How do writers employ literature—be it allegories or gothic horror or dystopian fiction—to critique society?
- What is happiness? Is it different from pleasure? What is the relationship between happiness and suffering?

### Supply list:

- A composition book (college-ruled) and dedicated folder for English
- 3x5 notecards
- #2 Pencils
- Sticky notes
- highlighters (three colors)
- Red, blue, and black ballpoint pens (plus one extra color of your choice--not green)
- loose-leaf college-ruled paper

### Course Objectives

Throughout the year, you will work to develop skills important to literary and STEM study, such as:

- Careful and analytic (close) reading of academic prose, fiction, drama, and poetry
- Participating in classroom dialogue and Socratic seminars
- Writing logically coherent claims
- Developing and writing clearly organized and sustained arguments to support claims
- Composing literary analysis essays, personal essays, argument/persuasive essays, and poems
- Clearly presenting ideas orally to an audience and using digital media in presentations
- Developing research skills and correct formatting style
- Identifying and incorporating literary devices and the 6+1 Traits of writing
- Developing professional communication skills and successfully collaborating with others

### General Expectations

Community rules and expectations tend to evolve over time, but I have outlined six basic guidelines that will aid us in becoming members of a caring, responsible, and mature community of learners:

1) Because I want you to feel at ease when it comes to taking personal and academic risks, I insist that we treat each other with RESPECT. **Bigotry, harassment, put downs, bullying, and language used to demean or exclude (on the basis of things such as appearance, race/ethnicity, gender, and sexual or gender identity) WILL NOT be tolerated.** Recognizing that other people have different values, beliefs, appearance, and desires is a hallmark of maturity. **Note:** One other thing that falls under this category is the use of sarcasm. I can appreciate a witty and sarcastic remark as much as anyone, but please employ it for cruelty.

2) I understand that learning new things can be difficult, but I also expect everyone to take risks and put forth their BEST effort. Allow yourself to make mistakes in public and occasionally risk look silly/foolish/corny. Using phrases such as “I don’t know” or “I can’t”

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will result in death. Kidding. On a more serious note, I'm aware of the pressure cooker environment you're all in. Surrounded by so many brilliant minds, you may feel--on occasion--inadequate. Try not to let that hinder you from sharing ideas. Sometimes, what you don't know is what many others don't know, too, and if nobody asks about it, then we won't know what we *can* know.

3) We have much to explore and cover in the limited time we have together this school year, so I also need for everyone to be prepared and attentive. This means bringing required materials (assigned laptops, current books or readings, pens, pencils, notebook, paper, etc.) to class daily. It means frequent participation, not limited to only class discussions, but also includes taking notes on lectures, films, and readings. It means staying awake. It also means that we are quietly in our seats and working diligently by the time the first bell rings. Continue to work until I am ready to dismiss everyone from class; **do not pack up minutes before the bell has rung or I will keep you here after the bell.**

4) The main reason adults in the United States get fired from their jobs is because of their inability to work well with others (often referred to in the corporate world as a problem with "culture fit"). Because I don't want anyone to suffer through this embarrassing and altogether tragic possibility, and because I want everyone to be effective and contributing members to our future teams, families, and communities, I will often ask everyone to collaborate with other classmates in "nerd pods." I expect that each person will contribute consistently to their nerd pod. If it is apparent that you are merely "hitchhiking," you will not receive any points for the product the group creates, regardless of its merits. Make your show of effort obvious!

5) It is your daily responsibility to check PowerSchool, the online Learning Management System (LMS) adopted by the Lake Washington School District. In addition to the calendars in the classroom, assignments with due dates are regularly posted on PowerSchool, along with relevant handouts and resources. Assignments due the next day are usually announced in class, but any later additions will be posted to PowerSchool no later than 4 pm the day before they are due. There may be times during the year when you will also be required to post work to this website or to our class OneNote (this is a closed site; your work is only able to be viewed by other students in my class and their parents.).

6) You are to check in your cell phones at the beginning of class to their assigned numbered pocket. I take attendance from the pocket chart; no phone=unexcused absence. Personal electronics are not to be used in class without explicit teacher approval and will result in the loss of your device until the end of the school day. Computer or cell phone games are NEVER allowed in class.

### **Assignment Policies:**

You are expected to come to class with your assignment completed (and/or printed or uploaded, if required) on the date it is due. Homework is **due at the beginning of class** and is a valuable part of the learning process. Because you will miss out on discussions and important foundational skills if you get off track, late daily homework assignments are accepted for 50% credit the next class day only, provided we have not gone through them in class. Larger papers or projects will result in a deduction of 10% per day from your final grade for late submissions up to five (five) days (weekends included). After that cut off, no late work is accepted. Use a planner, check PowerSchool, enlist the help of a class ally, or find a system that works for you to keep track of your responsibilities. If your first plan of

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attack doesn't work, work on your problem-solving skills, and develop a Plan B. If you cannot print, you can email it to me by 7:30 a.m. on the day that it is due. It is your responsibility to verify that PowerSchool or Turnitin.com has received your assignment. You should be able to view your submissions in PowerSchool. Turnitin offers a preview screen to confirm and sends a confirmation email. Make sure you received that email or can confirm your upload is in your library in order to avoid late penalties.

Any formal (typed) assignments that are to be uploaded or emailed to me must use the following file naming convention so that they're easy for me to track down:

**Period#LastNameFirstInitialTitle (Example: Period3NguyenKDescriptiveEssay)**

### **Parent Access:**

Skyward is the primary source of information for assignments, grades, or missing work. Please set up automatic emails for missing assignments by following these instructions:

<https://www.lwsd.org/help/parent-access-support/setting-up-automatic-emails-for-missing-assignments>.

Parents have access to PowerSchool and should occasionally view class calendars and assignments. Student quizzes or dropbox assignments can also be viewed there. I encourage you to get your student's login and password for Turnitin.com so you can view his/her submissions. Also, if your student saves his/her class OneNote as a local copy on your home computer through a login you can access, you will be able to view his/her OneNote assignments throughout the year.

### **Student absence/Make-up policy:**

You are responsible for finding out what you missed when you are absent—even if the absence is for a school field trip or academic competition. You should check PowerSchool for assignments and due dates when you are gone and check with a classmate for discussion notes. Handouts can be found on PowerSchool or hardcopies are often on the front table in the classroom. Homework is due on the day you return unless you have notified me of an illness or made other arrangements. **Make-up quizzes/tests are due within two (2) days of returning to school—these are YOUR responsibility to schedule and must be made up during office hours—not during class.** Short absences will not extend the due date of long-term papers or projects. In order to maintain your grade, it is crucial that you make up all work in a timely manner and that you do not have excessive absences or tardies.

### **Grading Policy:**

You will have multiple grade earning opportunities each semester, so make the best of all of them, as they are important. Even though each assignment is worth a number of points, assignments are weighted according to category (see below). Your grade is the percentage of weighted points earned out of the total number possible. You will receive a progress report after the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters, but quarter grades are cumulative throughout each semester.

### **Grading Categories:**

Writing and Composition (35%)

Assessments (25%)

Classwork (15%) / Nerd Pod Work (10%)

Participation (15%)

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### **Grading Scale:**

A = 90-100

C = 73-76

B+ = 87-89

C- = 70-72

B = 83-86

D+ = 67-69

B- = 80-82

D = 63-66

C+ = 77-79

D- = 60-63

### **Academic Integrity/Dishonesty**

In this class, you have opportunities to share ideas and collaborate on projects. However, you are entirely responsible for your own work. All forms of cheating, plagiarism, or fabrication, including submitting any work product that the student misrepresents as his or her work product for the purpose of fulfilling any assignment or task required as part of the student's course of studies is considered dishonest. This includes the unauthorized use of electronic devices, the use of unauthorized material or unauthorized communication of any kind during testing, and the aiding and abetting of academic dishonesty of others. If you choose to disregard these guidelines, you will receive a zero on the relevant assignment or test. If the behavior continues, you will not receive credit for the course. Please ask me or another teacher if you are concerned about correctly citing sources or if you are concerned about appropriate times and/or ways to share/collaborate your work with others. Throughout the year, you will be required to submit most projects/papers to [www.Turnitin.com](http://www.Turnitin.com).

### **Communication/Office Hours:**

As juniors, you should be masters at communicating with your teachers. You may always contact me by email at [kenguyen@lwsd.org](mailto:kenguyen@lwsd.org) if you have comments, questions, or concerns, but please use proper email etiquette. I will respond within 48 hours during the work week. I do not access voicemail. I am also available to meet by appointment during office hours.

Please do not wait until you are overwhelmed to meet with me. Together we can develop a plan to help you get on track; I am here to help you get the most out of my class. I recommend that you make an appointment if you'd like dedicated time with me. All All appointments take priority over walk-ins.

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## AP Language & Composition / 11<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Honors Syllabus

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STUDENT NAME (print):

Please read and discuss these expectations carefully. Then provide your signature below. Return this lower, signed slip to Mr. Nguyen by Friday, September 6. Keep the remaining expectations sheets in your notebook for future reference.

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand the course description and expectations for AP Lang & Comp/11th grade ELA Honors at Tesla STEM. I agree to abide by the policies and procedures outlined herein. I understand I am responsible for my own actions, behaviors, and academic performance, and I will monitor the same through the available online platforms described herein.

STUDENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_