



Honors English 9
Course Policies Fall 2014 and Spring 2015
Mrs. Candace Edwards
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Required Materials

- ◆ You must bring your binder, writing utensils, and the book we are currently studying to class each day!
- ◆ 3 ring binder (at least 1 inch wide) arranged in the following manner:

1. DAILY JOURNALS
2. LITERATURE NOTES
3. GRAMMAR/WRITING NOTES
4. CLASS WORK/HOMEWORK
5. ESSAYS/PROJECTS



- Blue or black ink pens, pencils, red pens, green pens, and hi-lighters
- College ruled, loose-leaf notebook paper
- Access to a computer and *Google Docs* and/or flash drive
- An Agenda Book
- Prentice Hall, *Literature Grade 9 Common Core*
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* - Harper Lee (Summer)
- *A Separate Peace* - John Knowles
- *In the Time of Butterflies* - Julia Alvarez
- *The Invention of Wings* - Sue Monk Kidd
- *Night* - Elie Wiesel
- *Much Ado about Nothing* - William Shakespeare
- *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* - William Shakespeare



Course Description

Instruction in English 9 introduces students to reading and writing at the high school level. Students develop comprehension and critical thinking skills through analysis of all major literary genres. Students develop writing skills while mastering the basic principles of grammar, vocabulary building and construction of sentences, paragraphs and essays. English 9 instruction establishes appreciation for literature and grammatical competence while enhancing communication skills. Honors English 9 instruction expands on the English 9 course in both depth and breadth of material covered. Levels of reading analysis and literary criticism increase significantly in Honors classes, with greater pace, rigor of grading and quantity of material covered. It is intended for students who want to challenge themselves even more and who not only enjoy reading extensively, but who also want to learn to probe, analyze and explore key literary themes and techniques. This course is the gateway course for eventual participation in the Advanced Placement courses at the junior and senior years. Finally, the course will also provide each student the opportunity to master the CORE Standards in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Course Objectives

Students should be able to

- Demonstrate knowledge of literary terms and forms and be able to apply these to their own writing
- Be able to make use of and evaluate a variety of research techniques including electronic databases for research and reporting
- Make planned oral presentations using relevant details to support main ideas
- Use grammatically correct language, including vocabulary appropriate to the topic, audience and purpose
- Use literary terms to describe and analyze literary selections
- Read and analyze a variety of informational and nonfiction materials
- Read dramatic selections including identifying staging and scripting and understanding how stage directions create setting, mood, characters, plot and theme
- To develop narrative, expository, and informational writings to inform, explain, analyze, or entertain
- Credit sources of quoted and paraphrased ideas according to the Modern Language Association (MLA) standards
- Apply Mary Star's Expected Schoolwide Learning Expectations to all aspects of his/her learning and daily life by
 - Nourishing one's soul (Catholicism)
 - Cultivating personal integrity (Character)
 - Challenging one's mind (Curriculum)
 - Fostering social responsibility (Community)

Grading Policy

I utilize the Archdiocese of Los Angeles's grading scale, as explained in the Mary Star of the Sea High School Handbook. Assignments are each worth a specified number of points, and then divided according to the percentage designated for its subject.

Grades may initially be lower than those to which students have been accustomed. **Student grades are based upon handouts, daily journals, blog posts, projects, essays, presentations, quizzes and tests, participation and productivity.** Each assignment should demonstrate a student's grasp of the concepts and content discussed. All assignments are returned in a timely manner. I grade an enormous amount of essays, quizzes, tests, projects and handouts each year. Because of this volume, written commentary is kept to a minimum, but each returned assignment is discussed in detail. **Students may seek tutoring after school Tuesday - Thursday from 2:30 - 3:00.**

Percentage Breakdown

Essays & Projects	30%
Exams & Quizzes	30%
Homework & Class Work	20%
Final Exam	15%
Participation	5%



Evaluation Policy



- Written homework will be assigned regularly to reinforce material presented in class. Studying, which includes vocabulary review and application, should be done every night-even when written homework has not been assigned. *Regular studying is the key to academic success.*
- Each homework assignment, quiz, test, essay, and creative project will be awarded points based on the level of difficulty and amount of work required for successful completion.
- Class participation is an integral part of this class. Students will be held responsible for discussion during all aspects of this course.
- Participation in small-group and class discussion, written assignments, presentations, and quizzes and tests will all contribute to evaluating student progress. Students will learn notebook management skills and will keep a well-organized binder of written work, which will be checked randomly.
- Remember to check *PowerSchool* on a regular basis. Grades will be updated every other week.
 - Quizzes will be returned and updated on *PowerSchool* within one week of the quiz date.
 - Tests will be returned and updated on *PowerSchool* within two weeks of the test date.
 - Papers and projects will be returned and updated on *PowerSchool* within four weeks of the final project due date.
- If there are concerns about the grades, please feel free to contact me by e-mail or phone. There will be a one-day response time unless the message is sent on Friday. If that is the case, you will have a response from me by the end of Monday.

Course Procedures

*** All homework assignments and PowerPoint notes are available under my webpage.**



Writing Assignments - All class work and homework must be typed or written/printed neatly in blue or black ink on notebook paper. Put the heading - name, teacher, subject and period, and date (Day/Month/Year) - in the upper left hand corner above the top line. All essays and projects must be typed, double-spaced in a standard 12 point font (i.e. Times New Roman, Century Schoolbook, etc.) following the **MLA format** including a Works Cited page and submitted via [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com). **ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS!**

Homework Assignments - Homework will primarily consist of reading, grammar handouts, vocabulary assessments, literary response, or submitting answers on the class blog. All reading assignments must be completed. You should annotate as you read, including defining any new vocabulary and questions you may have. This will better prepare you for quizzes, lectures and papers. Generally, class time will be given to students to complete their assignment(s). If work is not completed in class, then it is to be taken home, finished, and turned in by its due date. In my room, students are to record what homework they have that night in their planner under the respective class. If there is an *excused absence* from school or early dismissal due to athletics or co-curricular activities, it is the student's responsibility to find out what he/she missed as well as the time frame for the make-up work.

Late Homework Assignments - As stated in the Student/Parent Handbook, an academic detention may be issued if work is not submitted at the time it is collected or checked or if it does not meet the assignment's instructions. It does not meet the assignment's instructions. Thus, homework turned in late will drop the assignment one-letter grade. Likewise, you must turn in the assignment within 3 days from the original due date.



Quizzes - Quizzes will be announced or unannounced. Reading quizzes may take place every other day. **Make-up quizzes must happen the day a student comes back from their excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to remember to make up any missing quizzes!**

Essays - Students will be given specific information regarding each paper. Each paper will have specific instructions, outline, prompt and rubric. Lack of a first draft will drop the paper *one-letter grade*. All essays must be submitted to [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) for plagiarism and grading. Likewise, there will be no acceptance of late papers! Absence from school, printer problems, computer problems, note from parents, etc. **will not be acceptable reasons for a late paper.** If you are having technical difficulties, you can *always* e-mail the "hardcopy" to me the morning that it is due or share the document via *Google Docs*.

- **Turnitin.com** is a service used by Mary Star of the Sea High School for the submission of student essays. When an essay is submitted, the service will search for undocumented quotations or citations or pre-written essays that have been taken from the Internet without acknowledging the original author. The service is also used for peer review and grading.



Exams - Exams will be given as a supplement to the student's comprehension of the material covered in class. Exams may include a variety of question formats such as short answer, multiple choice, passage identification, and essays. If you are absent on any such date **AND** your absence is excused, you may make up the test within one week of your return to school. Generally, the date and time for after school make-up exams will be on Wednesdays.

Presentations and Projects - Presentations and projects will require research, organization and effort. Each project will have specific instructions, outline, prompt and rubric. Effort and attention will be included in the overall grade. All projects must be submitted to [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) for plagiarism and grading. There will be no acceptance of late projects! Absence from school, printer problems, computer problems, note from parents, etc. **will no longer be acceptable reasons for a late paper.** If you are having technical difficulties, you can *always* e-mail the "hardcopy" to me the morning that it is due or share the document via *Google Docs*.

Extra Credit - Typically extra credit points may be awarded through "bonus" questions on quizzes and exams or through participation raffles. Once a semester, a large extra credit opportunity may be available. Finally, unused bathroom passes are another form of extra credit.

Plagiarism - Using someone else's exact words or paraphrasing ideas without giving credit is academic theft. Material from the *Wikipedia*, *Spark Notes*, pre-generated essay sites, or any literary summary/analysis websites are unacceptable material. Likewise, copying or allowing copying is a form of plagiarism. Simply putting your name on work completed by another classmate, an Internet source, or a parent also counts as cheating.

Therefore, the consequences are severe:

1. An automatic 0 on the assignment.
2. A conference with the you, your parent(s) and Mrs. Edwards.
3. You will be issued a dean's detention.
4. You will be placed on probation.

Students must follow the Modern Language Association (MLA) format on citations or see me for help on developing his/her own thoughts from the given information.

In addition to a "zero tolerance" policy on plagiarism, I would like to make it clear that the following policies will prevail in my class:



- ❖ Students are expected to do their own work. Any evidence of cheating in any way will result in a grade of zero (0) on the assignment, test or quiz for all parties involved.
- ❖ It is impossible for me to know the subject of a conversation which occurs during a quiz or test; therefore, any talking during a quiz or test, whether related to subject matter or not, will result in a grade of zero (0) for all parties involved.



Failing to adhere to classroom rules will result in a teacher's detention!

Class Rules and Expectations

1. You must be in your assigned seat by the end of the second bell. Failure to be in your seat will result in a tardy.
2. Respect your fellow students. Do not talk when someone else has the floor. Feel free to courteously share your ideas with the class. We all learn from each other.
3. No question asked sincerely is ever a dumb question.
4. Be respectful in both your words and actions.
5. Be prepared with appropriate materials every day. A detention will be given to students without the proper materials.
6. You will be given 4 excused bathroom passes for the entire semester. **USE YOUR PASSES WISELY!** After you have used your 4 excused passes, all other requests for the bathroom will result in a detention. All unused bathroom passes will be added to your final grade.
7. Students will also be held responsible for abiding by the rules outlined in the Mary Star handbook.



Honors English 9

Student – Parent – Teacher Contract

*This contract is to be signed and returned by August 22, 2014, an easy 15 homework points.
Please print clearly.*

Parent/Guardians' Names: _____

Please include the best phone number and email address for reaching you.

Phone Number: _____

o Whose number is this? _____

o Circle one: Cell Phone Work Phone Home Phone

Email Address: _____

o Whose email is this? _____

Optional Information:

Additional Phone Number: _____

o Whose number is this? _____

o Circle one: Cell Phone Work Phone Home Phone

By signing below, I acknowledge that:

I have read and understand Mrs. Edwards' course policies, procedures and classroom rules, as well as her policies on grading, cheating, homework, late work, and make-up work. I have read and understand Mrs. Edwards' policy on plagiarism, the use of Turnitin.com for essay and project submission, and know that I can access student grades online through *PowerSchool*.

I know how to contact Mrs. Edwards if necessary.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____