

## High School Lit Syllabus

Teacher: Jes Widrick, [jeswidrick@gmail.com](mailto:jeswidrick@gmail.com) (email is preferred), 684-2301

### Overview

This course will provide a general overview of different styles and genres of literature. Students will read and respond to classic works of literature through discussion, writing, and group & individual projects and presentations. Students will learn to recognize and use literary devices and literary elements.

### Expectations

Reading should be thoughtful, intelligent, and interactive! Take notes, analyse, agree/disagree, compare/contrast, and develop an opinion. Keep alert for literary devices; pay attention to literary elements.

Students determine the tone of the class! Good attitude, willingness to participate in discussion, readiness to learn and think, respect for others, and listening, will all help to create an environment that is thought-provoking, challenging, and fun. Conversely, this class can be modified to be extremely rigid and “boring”! *Students: the choice is yours.* ☺

Students will be required to keep a vocabulary journal, in which they write unfamiliar words, complete with context and definitions. Students will also keep a regular journal throughout the course of the class and will be required to journal at least twice per week.

Students missing class due to illness or travel, or emergency, will be responsible to communicate with the teacher. Assignments are listed in the syllabus, contact info is available, and homework will be listed each week in the newsletter. As such, there will be no excuses for late or missing assignments.

### Grading

Students will be evaluated in the areas of class participation, assignments/homework, and term papers. There will be no exams. There will usually be one major assignment due on the last Monday of each month. There will be a 10% grade penalty in each of the first two weeks for late assignments. After two weeks, students will receive zero.

#### Class Participation, 35%

- Be on time
- Be prepared: pen/pencil, paper, current book, any assignments due
- Take part in discussion
- Show respect for teacher and peers

#### Homework, 45%

- Follow rubric
- Follow class instructions
- Complete all assigned work
- Hand in assignments on time

#### Term Papers, 20%

- Two term papers required, one in November and one in March

**Book List:**

Frankenstein	Jonathan Livingston Seagull
A Midsummer Night's Dream	Kidnapped
The Glass Menagerie	To Kill a Mockingbird
Diary of Anne Frank	Poetry (tba, copies provided)
Short story (tba, copies provided)	

**September**

Jonathan Livingston Seagull

**Sept 13/10**

*In class:* Read aloud, Breaking the Ice, Literary devices and elements

*Homework:* Read Jonathan Livingston Seagull. Begin vocabulary journal. Come to class with 3 questions or discussion ideas. Begin regular journal.

**Sept 20/10**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion, creative genius flow (symbolism story ideas)

*Homework:* Journal. Write a two-three page story using symbolism; rough, revised, and final copy due

**Sept 27/10**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion, partner work on symbolism stories

*Homework:* Read Frankenstein, from Letter 1 to the end of ch6

**October**

Frankenstein

**Oct 4/10**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion, creative genius flow (Frankenstein creation)

*Homework:* Journal. Read Frankenstein, ch7-13. Begin own creation.

**Oct 11/10**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion, partner work with creations

*Homework:* Journal. Read Frankenstein, ch14-20. Continue own creation.

**Oct 18/10**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion, partner work with creations

*Homework:* Journal. Read Frankenstein, ch21-25. Finish own creation.

**Oct 25/10**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion, present creations

*Homework:* Journal. Read The Glass Menagerie, Intro – Scene 1

**November**

The Glass Menagerie

Mid-term Paper: **due Nov 29/10**

**Nov 1/10**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion, creative genius flow (play)

*Homework:* Journal. Read The Glass Menagerie, Scenes 2-3, setting development, term paper

**Nov8/10**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion, partner work with plays

*Homework:* Journal. Read The Glass Menagerie, Scenes 4-5, plot development, term paper

**Nov 15/10**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion, partner work with plays

*Homework:* Journal. Read The Glass Menagerie, Scenes 6-7, character development, term paper

**Nov 22/10**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion, partner work with plays

*Homework:* Journal. Write play, term paper

**Nov 29/10**

*In class:* Read aloud. Present plays

*Homework:* Journal. Read Kidnapped, ch1-6

**December**

Kidnapped

**Dec 6/10**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion

*Homework:* Journal. Read Kidnapped, ch7-12

**Dec 13/10**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion

*Break work:* Read Kidnapped, ch13-30. Write critical analysis paper.

**January**

Diary of Anne Frank

Field Trip: Feb 1/11, Holocaust Museum in DC

**Jan 10/11**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion

*Homework:* Journal. Read Diary of Anne Frank, Intro-Part II, compare/contrast paper

**Jan 17/11**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion

*Homework:* Journal. Read Diary of Anne Frank, Part III-Part V, compare/contrast paper

**Jan 24/11**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion

*Homework:* Journal. Read Diary of Anne Frank, Part VI-The Final Outcome, compare/contrast paper

**Jan 31/11**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion

*Homework:* Journal.

**February**

Short Stories (tba)

**Feb 7/11**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion, creative genius flow (short story)

*Homework:* Journal. Work on short story

**Feb 14/11**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion

*Homework:* Journal. Work on short story

**Feb 21/11**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion

*Homework:* Journal. Work on short story

**Feb 28/11**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion

*Homework:* Journal. Read To Kill a Mockingbird, ch1-5

## **March**

To Kill a Mockingbird

Final Term Paper: **due Mar 28/11**

### **Mar 7/11**

*In class:* Read aloud, creative genius flow (mock trial)

*Homework:* Journal. Read To Kill a Mockingbird, ch6-10. Mock trial prep work, term paper

### **Mar 14/11**

*In class:* Read aloud, group work for mock trial

*Homework:* Journal. Read To Kill a Mockingbird, ch11-15. Mock trial prep work, term paper

### **Mar 21/11**

*In class:* Read aloud, group work for mock trial

*Homework:* Journal. Read To Kill a Mockingbird, ch20-25. Mock trial prep work, term paper

### **Mar 28/11**

*In class:* Read aloud, mock trial

*Homework:* Journal. Read To Kill a Mockingbird, ch25-31.

## **April**

Poetry

### **Apr 4/11**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion, creative genius flow (poetry)

*Homework:* Journal. Poetry analysis, write poetry

### **Apr 11/11**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion

*Homework:* Journal. Poetry analysis, write poetry

### **Apr 18/11**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion

*Homework:* Journal. Poetry analysis, write poetry

### **Apr 25/11**

*In class:* Read aloud, group discussion