

Exploring American Literature 2014-15 Student/Parent Class Agreement

Teacher Contact: John Jenkins (john@reconciliation.com or 703-507-9379)

American Literature is an essential element in being prepared for the rigors of high school and college thinking, but in obtaining a critical insight to the importance of classic literature in our lives both as students and adults. Drawing from *Norton Anthology of American Literature* and Stobaugh's *American Literature: Encouraging Thoughtful Christians To Be World Changers*, this class will explore a broad range of genres, including forays into plays and poetry, in each of the major literary periods that frame the authors lives, their times, and their themes as related to the growth and development of our nation through five time periods: prior to 1820, 1820-1865, 1865-1914, 1914-1945, and 1945 to present.

PREREQUISITES. Appropriate reading speed and comprehension skills for age level, can use Microsoft Word or equivalent, including footnotes, and conduct computer research and typing.

What You Will Learn

In this class, students will learn 1) the historical context of American Literature from the founding of our nations to the 20th century, 2) the themes and worldviews of the authors, 3) the fundamentals of literary analysis (including literary devices) and apply their knowledge through class discussions and presentations, key quote analysis, short and long answers. This class can be taken as an honor's class with additional reading, research and writing required.

Requirements

1. Reading schedule can include 20-50 pages of guided reading per week, including book mark-ups and quote selections. Booklist is available online at www.rpclasses.com, but teacher will order all books.
2. Throughout the year, students will develop and maintain a 3-ring class notebook containing all of the school years research, in-class and homework assignments (in-progress and completed) and handouts. A key component of the notebook is the Grade Sheet. Students are required to keep a record

of all assignments (assignment name, due date, grade). Failure to maintain a class notebook can result in suspension from class until the notebook is updated.

3. Students will also complete up to 20 in-class or take home writing/reading exercises. Failure to turn in an assignment on time can result in the lowering of the student's grade of one grade level per week.

4. There are no make-up classes for missed days. Students must initiate communication with the teacher or a classmate to find out the week's assignments if the class homework guide does not already state the assignment. As long as a student completes an assignment on time and according to the assignment's requirements, there are no penalties. Use USPS stamp mail for any late assignments.

5. Final grades will be given on a standard 4.0 scale and a grading rubric given in class. Semester grades will also be provided at year end. Parents and students should track student progress using the Grading Sheet provided the first day of class. This is a 1 credit class.

6. All homework assignments are posted at rpclasses.com/homework by class.

7. Material/copy fees: \$35. If paperback books are required (max \$60), teacher will order, including Stobaugh's *American Literature* workbook.

Parent's Involvement

- 1) Obtain and read the *Getting Started* document for Mr. Jenkins classes at www.rpclasses.com
- 2) Monitor a student's homework schedule
- 3) Monitor the student's class notebook
- 4) Collect the student's assignment grades
- 5) Read the class N-G-E evaluation system and grading rubrics

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Please keep a copy of this agreement for your records. Return the second copy with

your student before the 3rd week of class.