

English 9-12 Course Syllabus Year A
Literature, Grammar, and Composition

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English Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to American literature and to integrate biblical truth and historical and philosophical explorations with the works we study together. The level of the material is selected to both challenge and prepare the college-bound student; therefore, it encompasses a variety of literary time periods and genres, including prose, poetry, short stories and non-fiction of the pre-Revolutionary period through the 20th century. Composition is also an integral component of each unit and contains both prepped and timed assignments. Finally, the course includes weekly grammar and vocabulary instruction and practice, both of which will be applied directly to the composition assignments throughout the year. Additional reading and composition assignments will be made available to 10th-12th grade students seeking honors-level enrichment. Weekly assignments/class work will include research skills, oral and visual presentations, projects, and group discussion and activities. Students will learn to write effective expository prose through formal and informal essays with a focus on the writing process and learning how to organize thought.

Literature

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

American Short Stories & Poetry

Poetry & Puritan writing from *The Great Awakening*

Anthem by Ayn Rand

The Pearl by John Steinbeck

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Grammar

Abeka Handbook of Grammar and Composition, Abeka Workbook V

Students will receive teacher instruction and will complete corresponding text, workbook exercises, and writing practice. Grammar principles will be integrated in writing assignments to improve clarity, conciseness, and clear communication. Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines will be practiced to ensure readiness for college.

Vocabulary

Each week students will master new words by learning definitions, synonyms, and antonyms of words found within their literature reading. The teacher will give quizzes and creative writing assignments using vocabulary words.

Writing

Most student writing will be in response to literature and will encourage critical thinking skills. Students will write to summarize, evaluate, analyze, and respond to assigned reading. Students will also have the opportunity for creative writing throughout the year, and they will complete an extended literary analysis essay assignment. Writing assignments must be submitted in MLA format and may be returned to students if guidelines are not applied. Unless specifically stated, outside resources (Web sites, books, magazines, etc.) should NOT be consulted to complete weekly homework assignments. *In other words, students should not just Google the answer.* Students should document using MLA standards anytime an outside source is consulted.

English Course Assessment

<i>Category</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Grammar/Vocabulary Homework & pop quizzes	10%
Literature / Writing Homework	20%
Quizzes/Class Participation	25%
Tests, Major Essays and Major Projects	45%

Late or Missing Work

Veritas school policy allows two weeks for **excused** (sickness or travel) late work to be completed without penalty. All other work is to be submitted on the assigned date, according to teacher instructions, in **hard copy** form unless otherwise specified. If students experience printer problems, the teacher prefers hand-written work to emailed work. Have extra printer ink available to avoid last minute printing problems.

Students are expected to come prepared for class. If students forget to bring an assignment, they have until midnight of the due date to submit the work for credit. Students may only receive full credit for late work that has been turned in by midnight *a maximum of two times per semester*. A printed copy of the work must be turned in to the teacher the following week. Typically, only hard copy work will be graded. The third and subsequent late assignments will be reduced by 50%. Teachers will not print submitted homework. **Failure to complete an assignment on time or cheating (including plagiarism, shared work, etc.) will result in a grade of zero.**

***Note that any missing work will go into the grade book with a 0. The grade will change once I have received the required work.*

Cheating and plagiarism

The student is responsible for using MLA format for all quoted material and borrowed concepts, even when paraphrased. A Works Cited page must accompany any paper that contains quoted and/or borrowed material regardless of the length of the paper. Unless specifically stated, outside resources (Web sites, AI, books, magazines, etc.) should NOT be consulted to complete weekly

homework assignments. *In other words, students should not just Google the answer.* If the teacher finds cheating, the student's parents and VCS director will be notified upon discovery. **Failure to follow proper procedures may result in plagiarism and will guarantee a zero for the assignment. This may jeopardize passing the course. Always give credit where credit is due! When in doubt, ask. MLA guidelines are included in a handout given the first day of class.**

Class Supplies

Students should come to class prepared. This includes having books, completed assignments, paper, pens (black or blue and another color to use for grading), and pencils. Additional helpful items include a 3-hole punch, stapler, and paper clips.

Veritas Parent Portal

Grades and assignments will be posted weekly on Thinkwave, and the teacher will post and email important information and parent/student notes on the Veritas portal. Parent and student email addresses must be entered on portal to receive weekly information.

Standards for Student Work

All homework and essays must be typed according to MLA format guidelines. MLA format guidelines are on the handout students receive the first day of class. Assignments may not be accepted if not submitted in the required format.

Honors Level Course

Honors level assignments are available for 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students who desire challenge and enrichment beyond the typical course level. These assignments will involve additional reading and writing assignments. The additional assignments will be relevant to the units being studied but promote a higher level of understanding and skill. Tests for honors students may at times also contain additional questions.

Students who choose the honors level coursework must remain current in their assignments. If a student fails to turn in 3 or more assignments, the student will lose the opportunity to participate in the honors level course.

Behavior expectations

Students are expected to behave in ways that honor the Lord.

In honoring the Lord, all students are expected to be respectful and kind to each other, to the teacher, and to the facilities. Ephesians 4:29-32 is a guide: *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*



High School Student/Parent Commitment

Detach from syllabus, sign, and return to your child's teacher on the first day of class.

I have read the course syllabus with my child and agree to partner with Veritas Classical Schools in communicating the truth, training the mind, and cultivating the heart of my child. I will check my student's work each week to see that it is neatly, thoroughly, and honestly completed according to teacher instructions. I understand that all assignments are due on time and have read and understood the late or missing work policy stated in this syllabus. Further, I understand that assignments not submitted due to an excused absence are due within two weeks of the absence and will be awarded a zero grade until the work is submitted. Finally, I understand that failure to complete an assignment or cheating (including plagiarism, shared work, etc.) will result in a grade of zero.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

For 10th-12th grade only:

Will the student be completing Honors-Level Coursework? Yes No