

English 9 Course Outline 2017 – 2018
Ms. Quinn
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“To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.” -Victor Hugo

Welcome to English 9! I am excited to get to know you and to share my passion for English Language Arts with you. The beginning of high school is a time of exciting change. You will be growing immensely in the years to come. If you take on each challenge as an opportunity to learn, you will do well. I am here to help you succeed. Please take the personal initiative to work hard and commit to success this year.

Course Objective: This course has been designed to improve students’ reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills through combining reading strategies and writing instruction with grade-level curriculum. All lessons, units, and class activities have been designed in accordance with the NY State Common Core Learning Standards: www.engageny.org

Email and Webpage

- Students and parents/guardians may use the email addresses above to contact Ms. Quinn anytime with questions or concerns.
- **Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to check my Teacher Webpage daily.** Homework assignments will be updated daily, so you can always be aware of current assignments and projects **even when a student is absent from class.**
- Students will be expected to use their Marlboro CSD Google account for email, Classroom, and Drive/Docs throughout the year.
Student Log-In: first name.last name@students.marlboroschools.org
Student Password: s#6 Digit Student ID

Extra Help: Extra help is **always** available upon student request. Please take the initiative to ask for help. Students should speak to Ms. Quinn to check her schedule for help after school or during free periods.

Tentative Reading List: Students will read either the entire text or passages from any/all of the texts listed below.

- *Holt Elements of Literature* (3rd course)
- *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck
- *The Odyssey* by Homer
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel
- *The Tragedy of Romeo & Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
- *Tunes for Bears to Dance To* by Robert Cormier
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* by Sherman Alexie
- Short stories, essays, and articles
- Selected poetry

Course Outline/Requirements: All activities, projects, and assignments are aligned with the NY State Common Core Learning Standards and were created in order to improve students' achievement in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Specific course requirements that all 9th grade students must complete are listed below.

- **Midterm and Final Exams:** The midterm and final exam grade for 9th grade is based on four Common Tasks. These assignments serve several purposes: to maintain a consistent standard among all 9th grade English classes; to promote quality literacy development among our students; to spiral skills smoothly and consistently from 9th through 12th grades; to provide students with an opportunity to be assessed following instruction rather than at the end of the year.
- **Quizzes and Tests:** Vocabulary/reading comprehension quizzes will be administered throughout each unit of study to assess students' comprehension. In addition, unit exams/essays/projects will be administered at the conclusion of each unit.
- **Homework:** Students are responsible for completing all assigned homework on time. Late homework will not be accepted.
- **Writing:** Writing is critical in preparing students for success in high school, college, career, and life. To this end, writing will comprise a large part of classwork and homework; the type and length of the written assignments will vary.
- **Grammar & Usage Development:** A basic understanding of grammar and the ability to apply it in context is essential to good writing. In the beginning of the year, we will focus on parts of speech and sentence construction in isolation. After we develop shared vocabulary and understanding, the fundamental concepts will be applied to writing.
- **Vocabulary Development:** We will study vocabulary that appears in texts that we read, as well as Word of the Week (WoW). Each day, you will complete a section of your WoW activity sheet. The sheets will be graded, returned, and kept in a specific section of your class binder. You will be tested on these words all year long. This repeated practice will help you add these words to your personal vocabulary.
- **Independent Reading:** According to the Common Core Standards, students graduating high school in the United States are unprepared for the rigor of college and career reading. College and career readiness is essential; with this in mind, 9th grade students at Marlboro High School read at least one book per marking period independently. You should read your independent novel **daily**, in addition to your other responsibilities.

Grading

Homework: 15%

Classwork/Class Participation: 15%

Quizzes: 15%

Tests: 25%

Essays/Projects: 30%

Midterm: 5% of final average

Final: 15% of final average

Supplies

- A 3-ring binder
- 5 section dividers for binder
- Looseleaf paper to put in binder
- Pen, pencil, highlighter

Supplies and the signed syllabus are due on Wednesday, September 13. If there are financial reasons why students are unable to purchase these materials, they should bring a note from a parent/guardian.

Classroom Policies

Classroom policies are based on the English Department's core rules:

1. Students should be in their seats and **prepared** to learn when the bell rings;
2. Students should be **respectful** to others;
3. Students should assume **responsibility** for their own learning.



Cell phones should be put away. If cell phones are used during class, they will be taken until the end of the period.

Regular attendance is critical to success. **If you are absent, any assignments that were due on the day of your absence are due upon your return to school.** If you are in the building on the day an assignment is due, it must be submitted even if you do not attend class that day. You must also be prepared for any quizzes or tests that will be administered upon your return. **As a high school student, you are responsible for obtaining missed work when absent.** Do not expect me to remind you. Check my website to access materials and find out what you missed. If you need clarification, ask a friend or email me.

attendance
MATTERS



Late homework will not be accepted. Late essays and projects will be penalized 5% for each day late. Each quarter, you will receive one late pass which you may use to turn in a homework assignment late.

If you need to leave to go to the restroom, use a bathroom pass. You will receive two per quarter. Unused bathroom passes can be turned in for extra credit at the end of each quarter.



September 6, 2017

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your child is currently enrolled in my English 9 class. As a 9th grader, your child will be going through many changes as he or she adjusts to the challenges of high school.

It is important for you to be as informed as possible. For this reason, I am asking you to read the enclosed syllabus. This will allow you to know what is expected of your child. Though your child is ultimately the person responsible for this work, I want you to be aware of course requirements. After reading the syllabus, you will see that your child should have English-related homework almost every night. If the class is between long-term projects and your child has completed all of his/her weekly homework, he/she should be reading his/her independent novel. Independent reading is not an option in this class; it is a requirement.

The MCSD encourages teachers to maintain web pages. My class webpage will allow you to see a list of deadlines and due dates. I post class work and homework each afternoon. This way, parents are able to keep track of assignments, and students can download any lost or missed handouts. If your child is absent from school, he/she is responsible for going to my website to get missed assignments and materials. Any missed assignments will be due upon their return to school.

Please sign the slip below to indicate that you have received the syllabus. If you have questions or concerns at any time, please feel free to email me at the following address:
meghan.quinn@marlboroschools.org

Thank you for your time. I am looking forward to working with your child!

Sincerely,

Meghan Quinn



My child, _____, is currently enrolled in English 9 with Ms. Quinn.

(Please print your child's name)

I have been informed of the course requirements and expectations for my child.

Parent's / Guardian's name (printed)

Parent's / Guardian's signature

Parent's / Guardian's email (please print neatly)

Parent's / Guardian's preferred phone #

- Please sign me up for occasional reminder texts using Remind.
- Please sign me up for occasional Guardian email updates through Google Classroom.

For the complete list of classwork, homework, and due dates, please remember to visit my MCSD district web page.