

English 9 Class Syllabus and Policies
Text: *The Language of Literature*, Orange Level

The Writer's Craft, Orange Level (classroom set only),
The House On Mango Street,

Of Mice and Men or *Animal Farm* (teacher choice) and *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Class Activities and Assignments

English 9 will focus on the skills of reading, writing and speaking. We will emphasize CIM (certificate of initial mastery) traits and assessment.

Grades -- Grades will be posted by student number on a weekly basis barring unforeseen circumstances such as teacher absence. Approximately 20% of the cumulative grade will be in the form of participation points awarded on a weekly basis. Points are awarded on a 20-point scale and then adjusted to be near 20% of the total points recorded in the computer for that week (never fewer than 10 total points**). Participation point deductions are as follows:

1. Failing to bring class materials to class = 5 point deduction;
2. Failing to arrive on time to class = 3 point deduction;
3. Failing to excuse absences = 5 point deduction;
4. Failing to follow teacher direction in a timely fashion = 5 point deduction;
5. Failing to be on-task/working quietly = 5 point deduction.

If a student loses all possible participation points in a given week, there may be an additional appropriate consequence (removal from class for that day, detention, administrative referral, etc.)

The grading scale is as follows:

- 89.5% - 100% = A
- 79.5% - 89.4% = B
- 69.5% - 79.4% = C
- 59.5% - 69.4% = D
- 59.4% and below = F

Assignment Due Date -- Work must be turned in by the due date to receive full credit. Extensions will be granted in emergency situations to NO LATER THAN 8:35 (by the end of 1st period) the following class day.

"Mercy Makeup" Points (Late Work) -- Late work is accepted for "Mercy Makeup" points, which will be no less than half of what the student would have normally received if the work had been turned in on time. **Points will be placed in the grade sheet's "Mercy Makeup" column and one point will be placed in the regular assignment column showing that work has been completed.** By using this system, I am better able to tell if students are truly struggling or just aren't doing well because they are not turning work in (zero/one point in column). **All "Mercy Makeup" must be complete before extra credit will be given.**

Incompletes -- Incompletes are given when students have legitimate reasons for being late with their work. It is important that the student communicate in advance with the teacher if circumstances arise (other than excused absences) that would allow for full credit to be granted when Mercy Makeup points would normally be assigned. If there is an incomplete posted on Friday's grade sheet, the incomplete must be **turned in by the Wednesday following that Friday's posting** in order to receive full credit for the assignment.

Extra Credit -- Students earning an 'A' grade or better are assumed to have achieved mastery and will be congratulated. Students with less than a solid A grade are encouraged to complete extra work. Extra credit will not be given until all "Mercy Makeup" work is complete.

S.S.R. (Sustained Silent Reading) -- Each Friday, students will read selections of their choosing for approximately 20 minutes. 20 points will be awarded for having appropriate material with them (not leaving to get the material or borrowing from someone else) AND for reading silently for that period of time. Acceptable reading material must be published material that is appropriate to the classroom setting and for pleasure reading only. **S.S.R. material should NOT be from textbooks or classroom material.** The philosophy behind S.S.R. is to show that reading for pleasure is a worthwhile experience. Therefore, materials that could be construed as homework are not allowed. S.S.R. is NOT a study period.

Tardies -- Students are tardy if they are not in their assigned seats by the time roll is taken. If the tardy is excused, please take a moment to get a note before arriving to class. We will follow school tardy policies.

Absences -- Students must present a readmit slip to the teacher the day following the absence. Students returning without a readmit slip will be marked unexcused. We will follow school absence policies.

Truancies -- If absences are unexcused on the due date of an assignment or test, a TRUANT (TR) will be given, zero points are assigned, and that work can be completed for no less than half of what the student would have normally received (see "Mercy Makeup"). Teachers may call home and write referrals if there is an attendance concern.

Personal Needs -- Students are expected to take care of personal needs such as going to the bathroom, locker, attendance office, eating or drinking, etc. before and after school, during breaks or at lunch -- **NOT during class time. For emergencies, a hall pass may be issued and must be returned in a timely fashion before any other students will be allowed to leave class.** Headphones may be used at teacher discretion, but CELL PHONES, HAND-HELD GAMES, ETC., ARE NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS. KEEP THEM OUT OF SIGHT.

Plagiarism -- Plagiarism is the passing off of the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Plagiarism results from copying work of another person **or closely paraphrasing** a piece of work without due acknowledgment. Incidents of plagiarism may result in parent notification, no credit for the assignment and/or a one-day suspension. Note of the incident will be placed in the student's behavior file. Multiple infractions could result in loss of class credit, further suspension and/or recommendation for expulsion.

Class Behavior -- Approximately 20% of your grade will be awarded on a weekly basis for participating appropriately. **ONLY ONE RULE NECESSARY: SHOW RESPECT**

Always **SHOW RESPECT** for each other, the teacher, this class and **YOURSELF** by:

1. BRINGING class materials to class (NOT leaving class after the bell to get the materials),
2. ARRIVING to class ON TIME (please bring a note from a teacher/administrator/parent for excused tardy when you first arrive to class),
3. EXCUSING ABSENCES by bringing an excused readmit slip within the two-day limit. Readmit slips are issued before school, at lunch and after school,
4. FOLLOWING TEACHER DIRECTION (timely fashion, FIRST time the direction is given, without arguing),
5. Engaging in ON-TASK behaviors.

****Always bring a book or other homework in case you finish your work early****