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Office Hours: Before school or by appointment		Planning: 5 nd Period
English I 2017-2018		St. Paul High School

**“The more that you read, the more things
that you know. The more that you learn,
the more places you’ll go.”**

- Dr. Seuss

Welcome to English I: Explorations in Literature

COURSE OVERVIEW

Welcome to English I! In this course, you will read a variety of texts from various literary genres including fiction, drama, poetry and nonfiction. The selections will focus on a variety of themes, authors, and subjects and will enable you to develop your critical reading skills. You will read frequently, write essays that challenge you to critically think and analyze texts, complete research, and engage in projects and presentations throughout the year. Technology will be integrated as much as possible to facilitate and extend learning. This course is geared to expand on your foundations of literary analysis and foster appreciation and understanding of complex and rewarding texts. It will be reading and writing intensive and will provide a solid foundation to build on in the years to come.

RULES:

1. Come to class each day with all required materials.
2. Be in assigned seat at the bell and stay in seat during class.
3. Be in proper dress code at all times.
4. Do not bring food to eat during class. If you have a drink, it must have a lid.
5. All cell phones, tablets, laptops, iPods, etc should be off and out of sight unless we are using it as part of class. Unapproved use of devices in class means you will lose your device for the day and you will get a detention.
6. Keep your hands to yourself. Do not touch other students or their belongings.
7. Please leave anything else that could be distracting to yourself or others in your backpack or locker.

EXPECTATIONS:

1. Students will show respect to other students and teacher at all times.
2. Students will show a consistently high level of responsibility and age appropriate behavior.
3. Students will come each day ready to learn and grow as speakers, readers, writers and listeners.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. A one subject notebook or lots of looseleaf paper
2. Two- pocket folder or three ring binder
3. Blue or black pens or pencils
4. Post-It Notes and highlighters
5. Notecards

HOMEWORK

All homework and assignments should be attempted and completed in full prior to entering class. If you are struggling with an assignment, please do not hesitate to ask for help. Coming to class and then saying you did not understand the assignment will not excuse you from completing the assignment nor will you

receive credit. You can email me anytime with questions at rnourse@ncsmail.com. I also have “office hours” before school. Students who repeatedly fail to turn in homework will be issued homework violations.

VOCABULARY

Throughout the school year, we will work on improving vocabulary through direct vocabulary instruction. Most Mondays you will be given ten words to define for homework. We will work with these words through the remainder of the week so that you become familiar with how to use them correctly in a sentence. A quiz will be given on Friday to assess your understanding of the week’s words. These quizzes will ask you to fill in a sentence with the correct word. However, I will also give you two words from the previous unit and you will have to write your own sentences using those words.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

When there is assigned reading homework you are expected to complete it AND fully understand what you have read. This may require you to read something more than once. Your understanding of the reading (both in and outside of class) will be assessed on frequent reading check quizzes. You are responsible for your performance on those quizzes so make sure you understand what you are asked to read. Taking notes, looking up unknown words, and writing down questions as you read are excellent strategies to use if you find yourself struggling to comprehend a text. Please come see me and we can discuss these and other comprehension strategies!

****NOTE ON SPARKNOTES/ SHMOOP/ GRADESAVER/ WIKIPEDIA****

These websites should never replace your actual reading of a text. In fact, these sites can be a hindrance because they provide the analysis for you, which means you do not learn how to read and analyze texts on your own. They can narrow your understanding of a text by providing only that contributors’ analysis when other interpretations could be plausible. *Additionally, taking ideas from these sites and using them in any papers you are assigned to write is a form of plagiarism.* See the consequences of plagiarism on page 15 of the Student Handbook.



“I’m listing my deadlines by due date so I can miss them in chronological order.”

LATE WORK

For every day a major assignment is late you will lose 10% off that grade, however, deductions will not exceed 50%. Thus, you are expected to complete ALL assignments, but you will not get more than a 50% for work that is a week late. Failure to complete any homework or other minor assignment is a zero.

If you are absent (and it is excused) you will be given the number of days you were gone to complete the work without penalty. I will let you

know about major due dates at least a week in advance and you will be expected to have your assignment completed at the beginning of class on that day. If you are absent the day a major assignment is due, there are a variety of ways to turn in the assignment to ensure you do not lose any points.

- Email me the assignment
- Send the assignment with a class mate
- Have a parent or guardian drop off assignment in my school mailbox.

CLASS WEBSITE

I have a class webpage at www.rachelnourse.weebly.com where you will be able to find our class calendar and additional resources. The calendar has our tentative schedule so that you can see what you will be learning in the weeks ahead. Please note that things may change if we lose class time or our lessons

progress at a different pace than anticipated. I will update the calendar at the start of each week to accurately reflect where we are in the course curriculum.

EMAIL

Email is the best way to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have outside of class time. My email is rnourse@ncsmail.org. I check my email frequently and respond as quickly as I can.

POWERSCHOOL

I will update Power School with your grades as often as possible. I will try to put minor assignment grades and quizzes in the grade book within a day or two. Major papers and projects will take longer to grade. I will try to get grades for these assignments back to you within two weeks.

MAJOR PAPERS

Generally, there will be one major paper for each unit. All major papers will be worth 100 points each.

All major papers are to be typed and follow MLA formatting guidelines. That means that your papers will be double spaced, written in 12- point font and have approximately 1 -inch margins. You will need to head your paper as follows:

Last Name Page Number	
Your Name	
Teacher's Name	
Class Name	
Date	Title of Paper
Start each paragraph of your paper indented one time. Do NOT put extra spaces between paragraphs. Please double space all papers.	

MLA formatting also requires you to include a Works Cited page for any sources used in your paper. Do not forget this aspect as failing to attribute your sources is plagiarism.

GRADING SYSTEM

Assignments for this class will be separated into the following categories and weighted accordingly in the gradebook.

- Tests/ Projects: 30%
- Papers: 30%
- Quizzes: 20%
- Class Assignments/HW: 20%

GRADING PHILOSOPHY

A: Exceptional Work: A student has gone above and beyond the assignment in terms of effort and insight.

B: Above Average Work: Solid effort and intelligent insight is obvious in the assignment.

C: Average Work: A student has completed the required components with effort and insight.

D: Below Average Work: A student has not met the requirements for the assignment, but some effort was evident.

F: Unsatisfactory Work: A student has not met the requirements of the assignment and/or little effort is evident.

DISCIPLINE

Students are expected to act in a manner befitting their age and reflecting positively on St. Paul High School. I will adhere to the policies outlined in the St. Paul Disciplinary Handbook. As high schoolers, you are capable of acting like adults and I will expect no less from you. You are expected to control yourselves appropriately during all class activities and to show responsibility and respect to your classmates, yourself and your teacher. Any actions that are counter to this will be dealt with swiftly and in accordance with the disciplinary code.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in any form. This course is designed to teach you to express your own ideas and that is what I want to hear. I do not want to hear what some academic scholar or other student thinks of a text we are reading. I will be extremely disappointed to find anyone plagiarizing material or cheating in any form. Please refer to page 15 of the St. Paul Student Handbook for a full description of plagiarism.

The consequence for plagiarism/ cheating is disciplinary action from the administration as well as redoing the assignment. The possible point value for a resubmitted assignment is at the discretion of the teacher. A student caught cheating will never get more than a 50% on any resubmitted assignment.

Before you turn in any major assignment, you will handwrite St. Paul's Ethics Statement at the bottom of the last page. By writing and signing this statement, you acknowledge that you know what plagiarism is and that you have not committed plagiarism in your paper.

TARDINESS

Tardiness is not acceptable. All students are expected to be in their assigned seat at the start of class with all materials needed for the class. Do not expect to be able to leave class to use the restroom or get forgotten homework or books. If you are tardy, you need to have a note from another teacher to be admitted to class. Per the Student Handbook, any student receiving two tardies in one quarter will be issued a detention.

Unit Overview for the Year

Unit I: *The House on Mango Street*

Unit 2: *Lord of the Flies*

Unit 3: *Animal Farm*

Unit 4: Informative Research Paper

Unit 5: *Romeo and Juliet*

Unit 6: Short Stories/ Poetry

Unit 7: *Speak*

"It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it"
- Oscar Wilde