8th Grade English



Ms. Bottle

(602) 992-8140 Ext 7301

Homework help is on Wednesdays 3:15-4:00

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1. Course Description

This course will introduce students to some of the great works of literature – fiction and nonfictions, prose and poetry. We’ll look at a variety of texts, ranging from C.S. Lewis and Robert Lewis Stevenson to William Shakespeare. This course seeks to engage students in active and critical reflection about important works in light of a Christian Worldview through the use of Socratic discussions. Students will also develop writing skills through frequent writing assignments including formal reflection paragraphs, expository essays, and research writing. Grammar and mechanical skills will be sharpened using Prentice Hall. I encourage students to attend English homework help on Wednesdays with any problems or extra help he/she may need.

Much of our class time will be dedicated to in-class reading to train students in their critical analysis of literature based on the Christian worldview. Students are expected to answer Socratic questions both in writing and in discussion.

1. Texts and Class Materials

Our literature studies will be: *Treasure Island (summer reading), Out of the Silent Planet, Romeo and Juliet, All Quiet on the Western Front, The Chosen, The Miracle Worker,* and various short stories.

Curriculum: Sadlier-Oxford for Vocabulary and Prentice Hall for Writing, Grammar, and Spelling. There is a link on my website for Sadier-Oxford where students can print vocabulary cards, play games, and listen to the words.

Each day there will be a summary of what to bring to class and this will be posted in my window. Be sure to check it **BEFORE** entering the classroom.

1. Homework

Homework will consist of one or more of the following: vocabulary, reading and annotating, Socratic Seminar pre-work, and formal writing.

1. Tests and Essays

Tests will be listed on the PVCP test calendar and on my website unless it is a pop-quiz. Pop-quizzes will mainly consist of the previous day’s material, so review notes daily. We will have at least two formal essays each quarter. Each student is expected to demonstrate an understanding of the formal essay structure, show an understanding of the literary work and what was discussed in class, and the skill of defending one’s position/thesis. Students will be guided by the teacher prior to the final draft. If a student is absent on a due date for an essay, it must be emailed to the teacher in order to receive full credit.

1. Participation

As this course is conducted mainly in seminar format, student participation is expected and essential. Students are required to come to class prepared; with an attitude of seeking to know and engage actively in each discussion. It is not enough merely to read the assigned homework. Students must bring ideas and a sense of wonder and enthusiasm about the material to the discussions.

1. Absences and Make-up work

It is always the student’s responsibility to find out what was assigned when he or she is absent from class. An absent student must turn in any written assignments the day he or she returns to school unless prior arrangements have been made with the teacher. I am happy to print out a progress report when I am asked. If a student is absent when a test or quiz is given, he or she must make it up at homework help the following Wednesday unless other arrangements are made. A 10% deduction will be taken off each day, up to seven days, for late work.

1. AR Requirement

Students are required to take an AR test on each novel we read/discuss in class. Any additional reading a student does on his/her own will be ***extra credit*** up to and not beyond 20 points.

I’m looking forward to a year full of potential and readiness for high school. It is an honor and privilege to teach 8th grade.

Blessings,

Ms. Shelley Bottle