

# Freshman Honors English

## Syllabus

Teacher: Linda Sparks

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Room: E132

Course Description:



Freshman Honors English is an academically rigorous course designed to provide a foundation for future accelerated and AP English classes. In Freshman Honors English, students will read a variety of essays, poetry, novels, short stories, and plays. We will also strengthen writing skills and begin to develop our own unique writing “voices.” Students will strengthen functional vocabulary as well as grammar skills.

Supplies Needed:

- Spiral notebook, or comp book for notes and journal entries.
- Positive attitude
- Sense of humor

Main Units of Study:

All units include vocabulary building, written work, critical reading and thinking, literary analysis, and group work in addition to core literature pieces. All activities are built on a foundation of essential standards.

1. Foundations of Reading and Writing
  - a. Selected short stories, poems, and non-fiction pieces
  - b. Review of figurative language and academic vocabulary
  - c. Introduction to argumentative writing
  - d. Grammar Workshop
2. Classical Unit
  - a. Introduction to Greek mythology
  - b. Joseph Campbell’s “hero cycle”
  - c. *The Odyssey*, by Homer (Fagles translation)
3. Media Awareness: Thinking Critically About Media Messages
  - a. Analyze sources
  - b. Deconstruct media messages

- c. Learn about legal rights and responsibilities for teens as they safely navigate social media.
- 4. Fiction and Society
  - a. Satire: “The Importance of Being Earnest”, Oscar Wilde
  - b. *Allegory: The Little Prince*, Antoine De St. Exupery
  - c. Literary elements
  - d. Literary analysis
- 5. Shakespeare Unit
  - a. Introduction to Elizabethan England and Shakespeare
  - b. “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”
  - c. “The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet”
- 6. Outside Reading Projects (All year)
  - a. Throughout the year, students will have opportunities to choose their own books to read outside of class. These ORP activities will give students the opportunity independently apply the literary analysis skills we are learning in class.

Grading:

Assessment of student learning will be achieved through written work, group and or individual projects, quizzes, tests, and class participation. Grades are available on Family Access, and I will be happy to discuss grades or grading policies with students and their families at any time.

Course Expectations:

Our classroom is a haven of respect and trust. It is an environment where we will feel safe to share ideas, practice new skills, and take risks together.

