

English Language Arts 12

Texts:

Much of your reading this year will embody shorter works of fiction (short stories, poems, etc.) and non-fiction (essays, articles, etc.) that will thematically match topics of social issues, social injustices, and cultural conflicts. In addition to these shorter works, the following works may be incorporated into the course:

Snow Falling on Cedars~ David Guterson
The Kite Runner~ Khaled Hosseini
Kaffir Boy~ Mark Mathabane
Night~Elie Wiesel
1984~George Orwell
Season of Life~Jeffrey Marx
The Help~Kathryn Stockett
And Then There Were None~Agatha Christie
A Stranger is Watching~Mary Higgins Clark
Assorted Non-Fiction books

Course Overview:

The English Language Arts Curriculum is built upon the expectation that students will engage in broad reading and writing experiences which encompass literary texts, non-fiction and other informational texts as well as film and visual texts. The High School Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts are organized into the following strands:

- Reading Literature
- Reading Informational Text
- Writing
- Speaking and Listening
- Language

Requirements:

Course requirements include a midterm and final exam.

Category Weights for Grading:

Assessments: Essays, Tests, Projects=80% of the classroom grade

Checkpoints: Quizzes, other =20% of the classroom grade

Practice, Participation-0% of the classroom grade (important preparation for assessments)

Materials: Something to write with, marble notebook, and 3-ring binder or folder

Synopses of Novels:

Snow Falling on Cedars~ a novel of the trial of a Japanese American charged with the murder of a local fisherman on the Island of San Pedro, Washington. The novel presents a mix of courtroom drama and romance in the wake of the troubling policies against Japanese Americans after World War II, and how this affects a small community.

The Kite Runner~ a novel of the friendship of two boys growing up together yet very differently in Afghanistan. It is a novel of betrayal, guilt, forgiveness and love, set with the background of all the recent events in Afghanistan. The novel includes brief violence and inappropriate language.

Kaffir Boy~ an autobiographical account of the brutalities and difficulties of growing up under the South African apartheid system, and one boy's account of trying to escape.

Night~a Holocaust (WWII) memoir with various scenes of cruelty and violence.

1984~ a dystopian novel about government control of all aspects of life. The imaginary world of 1984 illustrates the dangers of a totalitarian society on its citizens.

And Then There Were None-A mystery novel set in England involving the mysterious bringing together of ten strangers to a remote island, and one by one, the ten begin to disappear or found dead.

The Kite Runner- a novel of the friendship of two boys growing up together yet very differently in Afghanistan. It is a novel of betrayal, guilt, forgiveness and love, set with the background of all the recent events in Afghanistan. The novel includes brief violence and inappropriate language.

A Stranger is Watching-a suspense novel set in NYC in a race against time to stop a serial killer from killing again and bombing Grand Central Station.

Skills and Processes

Reading:

Cite textual evidence to support analysis
Identify theme(s)
Analyze literary structures
Determine meaning through word choice
Evaluate the purpose(s) of genre selection

Vocabulary:

Practice using context clues
Identify and understand literary terms
Acquire grade level vocabulary
Discover connotations

