

# ELA- Reading/Writing Class Syllabus

## Myths and Legends, Quarter 1

2020-2021 School Year

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### OVERVIEW

Myths have intrigued human beings for centuries. Myths served as ways to help ensure life-long learning, using fictional characters to teach lessons. Legends, while similar, have one major difference -- legends are based on a piece of truth, although that truth is often over exaggerated. We'll read and write myths, check out the hero's journey, and examine some of our favorite stories to see how they follow a particular story structure.

Each trimester students will have focused instruction in literature and time to read in school. Students will set reading goals, work on skill development, and complete book talks. Students are expected to read at least 120 minutes per week outside of class time.

### Essential Questions:

1. How do you know what you know? Where and what is your evidence?
2. How can using signposts support reading comprehension?
3. How does the hero's journey connect to our lives?

### Language Arts Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.2

Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.6

Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.

## Grading

*Reading:* Weekly reading assignments. Focus is on choice reading, but directed reading of myths and legends will also be completed. Book Talks and individual conferences will be completed.

*Speaking and Listening:* Various activities aimed at improving public speaking skills as well as "listening to understand" skills. Focus is on the creation of civil discourse amongst peers.

*Classwork/Homework:* Some assignments are given out and completed in class. These may be timed assignments, or longer term projects that are intentionally to be completed in school. Other assignments are given as homework.

## HABITS OF WORK AND LEARNING

The three areas assessed for Habits of Work and Learning are Respect, Responsibility and Perseverance. Three components of each standard are scored on 1-4 scale as follows:

4 - Exceeding the Standard

3 - Meeting the Standard

2 - Partially Meeting the Standard

1 - Just Beginning to Meet Parts of the Standard

## WORK EXPECTATIONS

These are clearly outlined in the [HOWL RUBRIC](#) above. The expectation is that students pass in assignments on their due date. Late assignments will be marked as late in Powerschool. The HOWL grade will also be reduced accordingly for that cycle in which the work is late.

Students who miss work due to being absent are expected to seek me out to make a plan and a timeframe to complete their missing work. They MUST pick a time other than the beginning of class to do this. The STUDENT is responsible for initiating this meeting and ensuring it happens.