

2021 Young Adult Literature Course Overview

In Young Adult Literature we will read FICTIONAL literature written for adolescent audiences (ages 12-18), and we will do this with genuine academic intent. Because here is our truth:

Serious young adult fiction, though written for adolescents, not only reflects the social concerns of burgeoning adults, but also reveals truths of the universal human experience.

In our study of course literature, we will:

- understand the structural differences between the young adult and adult fictional genres
- examine course texts for their individual literary and artistic merits
- continue to develop our love for reading
- fine-tune and improve our skills as critical, analytical readers, writers, and thinkers
- write in a variety of forms, both formal and informal
- discuss texts using both oral and technological formats

Course Units and Texts*:

Unit	Essential Questions	Anchor Texts
#1: <u>Individual Identity</u> - Understanding the Self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is individuality? How is it formed and/or defined? ➤ What are the limits of “selfhood”? ➤ How much autonomy do we really have in determining our own sense of self? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Every Day</i>, David Levithan • <i>The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen</i>, Susin Nielsen • <i>13 Reasons Why</i>, Jay Asher
#2: <u>Relationships</u> - Romance, Friendship, and the Difference between the Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the difference between like and love? ➤ Do sexuality and gender matter? ➤ What happens when romantic feelings end or go unreturned? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Paper Towns</i>, John Green • <i>Eleanor and Park</i>, Rainbow Rowell • <i>Speak</i>, Laurie Halse Anderson
#3: <u>Group Dynamics</u> : The Constructs of Culture and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What defines a community? ➤ What roles do belief, culture, and governmental structures play in an individual's life? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Godless</i>, Pete Hautman • <i>Scorpio Races</i>, Maggie Stiefvater • <i>Maggot Moon</i>, Sally Gardner

★ This list represents what we have in our bookroom. I am open to engaging with you, the students, in some text selection and unit building. Have you got a library card???

Assignments and Activities:

(possibilities, including but not limited to...)

- book review
- blogging and/or vlogging (AKA: journaling)
- defend use of banned books in classrooms
- book trailer or jacket
- book playlist
- series or author study
- book club (literature circle)
- original chapter or fan fiction

Grading information:

- **Homework:** Unless you are told otherwise, all assignments are INDIVIDUAL ENDEAVORS.
 - Homework will be graded on a ✓+, ✓, ✓-, 0 (no credit) scale:
 - **To receive full credit** - completed homework must be handed in on the preset due date. Homework that is incomplete or poorly done will receive half or no credit (General Homework Rubric applies—see below).
 - Completed homework handed in late will receive a ✓-.
 - Absenteeism will be handled according to the school handbook. An email re: your absence is always appreciated!

	✓+	✓	✓-	0
Content	Information included is accurate, relevant, and insightful; demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the material	Information included is accurate and relevant; demonstrates understanding of the material	Information included may be inaccurate or irrelevant; demonstrates an incomplete and/or poor understanding of the material	Information included is inaccurate; does not indicate any clear understanding of the material
Effort	Assignment completed with obvious time, care, and (extra) effort	Assignment competently completed with appropriate effort	Assignment seems to have been completed in a rush or with little care	Assignment not completed, or not completed with any obvious care or effort
Requirements	Exceeds assignment requirements	Meets the assignment requirements	Assignment sections are incomplete	Fails to meet some or all of the assignment requirements

- **Revision Policy (*BHS English Dept. Policy)**
 - Students have the opportunity to revise major writing assignments to a 70% (i.e., proficient) up to two weeks after an assignment has been returned to them during the same quarter in which it was assigned. Prior to revision, students must have met with their teacher or a member of the ALC staff to create a revision plan. Teacher discretion can be used in cases of students with extenuating circumstances.

- **Additional information:**

- You will always be told clearly and specifically if an assignment is cooperative; unless you are told otherwise, all assignments are to be completely individually.
- Plagiarism (and cheating of any kind) will not be tolerated; violations of the Academic Honesty Policy will be handled according to school handbook guidelines.
- Late work (“big” stuff):
 - You will be penalized 5% for every school day an assignment is late—whether or not a student is present or absent; this includes excused absences. No student, no matter how many days during the same marking period an assignment is late, can receive less than a 50 on his/her work if it is submitted and meets the basic requirements of the assignment. Students whose late work carries over into another marking period cannot receive any credit for an assignment unless they are granted an Incomplete. (***BHS English Dept. Policy**)
- Canvas - I will (try very hard to) update my grade book every other week; please check your grade status regularly (but not too often!), and use the comments function to communicate with me.

Behavioral Expectations:

As a student, you have the responsibility to be a respectful and mindful citizen. Not only are you expected to participate in class activities and complete assignments, but you are also expected to maintain a certain level of acceptable behavior and maturity. Class participation will be routinely assessed (see rubric at end of document).

- **Lateness** - LATE means coming into class after the bell has rung, whether it is 3 seconds or 3 minutes, you are late. If you are late to class, come into class silently and take your seat. Quietly catch up with where we are in the lesson. There are times when strange circumstances may cause you to be late; if you are late for a strange reason (or if you ever want to apologize for being late ☺), tell Mrs. S-B AFTER class.
- **Preparedness** - Chromebooks (fully charged!), books, writing implements, notebooks, assignments, etc. must be brought to class every day.
- **Seating** - I know it stinks, but you **MUST** sit in your assigned seat. Once seating assignments are fully established (to accommodate all needs--vision, hearing, height, etc.), I will post charts in the classroom. Upon entering, please go straight to your desk and practice social-distancing.
- **Lav Use** - Please follow my lav protocol: you **MUST** ask (you cannot just get up and go); you must take a pass. You may only use the lav at a time that is not intrusive. Please **ASK** in an appropriate and respectful manner. Please be mindful of time. Abuse of lav privileges will be noticed and reported via appropriate channels.
- **Respect** - It is expected that you will be respectful at all times. I run a “3 strikes and you’re out” policy.
 - first offense - you will receive a verbal warning
 - second offense - you will receive a warning and may be asked to step outside (for a talk, a “time-out,” or both)
 - third offense - you will be required to leave class; we will have a conference about the “incident” at a later time
 - **THERE ARE WAYS TO SKIP 1 AND 2 AND GO STRAIGHT TO 3!!!**
 - Strikes will be given for the following types of behavior (however, this list is NOT all inclusive):
 - inappropriate language
 - hurtful remarks
 - sideways remarks--know how to deal with the “NO FAIR”’s

- UFO's and IFO's
- excessive chatting

In general, remember to always be mindful of social-distancing. Also, always show respect for the classroom. Do not write on the desks, even in pencil. Please put garbage where it belongs, and WALK to the garbage can.

- **Talking & Listening** - Always be respectful during class: do not talk when others are speaking or when class is switching from one activity to another, and please always follow both the BHS and [S-B electronic](#) devices policies. YOU MAY NOT WEAR EARBUDS (or listening tools of any variety) unless you have been given permission.
- **NO PRE-PACKING!** I dismiss you, not the bell! If you are attentive and respectful, I will make sure you have time to pack before the bell rings so that you are on time to your next class. Keep your seat until the bell rings! No door hanging!
- **Thermostat** - DON'T TOUCH IT! YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE PENALTY IS IF YOU DO! But, if you value your fingers, I suggest you keep them to yourself . . . 😊😊. It is a coldish room; air is always coming from the "heater." Because of this, if the thermostat is moved above 72°, the room will turn into a **temporary** sauna; shortly thereafter, it will become Siberia. It regulates itself with hot and cold air. 72° is comfortabish. Start bringing a sweater or jacket to class in October.

Contact info.:

- My email address is siravo-bazins@barringtonschools.org.
- For homework and project information, please use Canvas.