

9th Grade ELA Syllabus 2022-2023

Teacher: Mrs. Birch

Welcome Freshmen to High School. Colleges will now officially be looking at your grades and transcripts.

How Can I Contact You?

My contact information can be found on the South Jordan Middle School web page, but I can also be reached by email: mallory.birch@jordandistrict.org.

What Can I Expect?

In this class we will use the [Utah Core Standards](#) to develop students' skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Students will read and discuss a variety of novels in class this year. The novels were chosen to engage and challenge the students. The expected novels for this year include: *Unwind* by Neal Shusterman, *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, and *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare, along with various informational articles and short stories.

We will also be doing a variety of different assessments throughout the year. These assessments will include: written tests, socratic seminars, 2-page spreads, narrative writing, informative writing, argumentative writing, research papers, presentations, along with a variety of informal quizzes and checks throughout the year. Students will be expected to write in their journals every week, track their progress in their proficiency scales, read every day, annotate their reading, and do the daily work in class.

For more information about curriculum and due dates, there is a year outline at the end of this syllabus.

What Do I Need to be Successful in this class?

- Your School-Issued Chromebook
- Pen/Pencil
- Composition Notebook for Notes and Journal Entries
- Reading Book
- Positive Attitude
- OPTIONAL: Folder, Highlighter, Colored Pencils

How will I be Graded?

Standards-Based Grading gives a score based on a student's understanding of a specific concept or skill. A score of 4 means the student understands and can effectively use a concept. A score of 1 means the student does not understand the concept and is not able to apply it. Letter grades are earned based on the following 4 point conversion scale (please note, this is NOT a percentage scale):

4-Point Scale	Letter Grade	4-Point Scale	Letter Grade	4-Point Scale	Letter Grade
4.0 - 3.30	A	2.64 - 2.50	B-	1.99 - 1.85	D+
3.29 - 3.0	A-	2.49 - 2.35	C+	1.84 - 1.65	D
2.99 - 2.85	B+	2.34 - 2.15	C	1.64 - 1.50	D-
2.84 - 2.65	B	2.14 - 2.0	C-	1.49 - 0	F

Grade Breakdown:

80% **Assessments:** Standards-Based Assessments

20% **Practice:** Daily Assignments, Homework, and Participation

Deadlines

All assessments are due on the due date. We will accept remediated work up to 2 weeks after the due date. If you do not turn in your assessments by this time, you will not be able to change this grade. If you need an extension, you will need to fill [this form](#) explaining why you need the extension and your plan to get it done and how much extra time you need. If you do not fill out this form, your assessment will not be accepted.

What if I'm Absent or Going to be Absent?

All assignments are on Canvas. They will not be posted until the day of, so we cannot give you your work in advance. Check the announcement for the day you miss to complete your work. Zeros will be given even when you are absent. You are still responsible to make up any work you miss while you are absent. The "I wasn't here" excuse no longer applies.

If you are absent for an assessment, you will need to attend PROWL in my classroom to make up that assessment, or work out a time with me to make up the assessment.

How do I maintain an H in Citizenship?

Honors (H)	0-5 citizenship marks (or 0-1 tardies)
Satisfactory (S)	6-10 citizenship marks (2 tardies)
Needs Improvement (N)	11-15 citizenship marks (3 tardies)
Unsatisfactory (U)	16+ citizenship marks (4+ tardies)

*Please refer to the Student Handbook to see how citizenship will be handled.

The following will get you a citizenship mark:

Being unprepared, eating in class, passing notes, plagiarism, using technology without permission, arriving tardy, behaving inappropriately, or anything else that makes your teacher question her career choice or gives her twitches (this list is incomplete because 9th graders are smart and come up with new and ingenuitive behaviors that are not classroom appropriate). If public education is here to prepare you for the workforce, anything that would get you sent to HR in a job will cause you to get a citizenship mark and a parent email home. If the behavior is bad enough, we also hold the right to contact your sports coach and also let them know of the behaviors that are happening in class. Citizenship grades are recorded in Skyward for your viewing pleasure with notes. If you have questions, please contact your teacher.

Citizenship marks can be made up by making arrangements to come in and work on classroom tasks before or after school for 10 minutes per mark. Just simply asking to have it increased will not change your citizenship grade.

Signatures:

I have read the disclosure statement for 9th Grade Language Arts. I understand what is expected in this class, and I support the policies outlined. I will contact the teacher with any questions or concerns.

Teacher's Signature:

Administrator's Signature:

Guardians' Signature:

Student's Signature:

Please rip out this page and return it to your ELA teacher. The rest of the packet is yours. You will be held accountable for the information in this packet.
A copy of this syllabus can be found on Canvas.