



12th Grade British Literature

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CDS English Department Philosophy

The study of literature encourages students to examine the human condition in all its aspects and to effectively respond to the world around them in thoughtful and articulate ways. Country Day School provides a high-quality language arts education that emphasizes cultural literacy, human values, creativity, and critical thinking, which empowers students as listeners, readers, writers, and speakers.

What should I expect this year?

This British Literature course will challenge you to read and write more, via the themes of identity and belonging. We will explore multiple texts composed by British writers and ask how they relate to today's world and our selves.

What texts may we read this year?

1984 by George Orwell
Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw
Othello by William Shakespeare
Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad
The Casual Vacancy by J.K. Rowling

Will we read anything else?

We will read various articles and short stories throughout our units. I will expect you to be reading *something* outside of class! As the year moves forward, we will discuss what this looks like and how we can use the additional texts in class.

What will I need each day?

- laptop & charger
- blue or black pens (no pencils)
- post it notes for annotations
- folder or small binder
- agenda/calendar for tracking due dates
- reading material for the day
- independent reading material
- homework (if any)
- USB/external hard drive to back up work
- open and active mind

What types of activities will be do each day in class?

The look of our class will change each day. There will be days where we work on our own, typing or scribbling away at a new writing piece, while there will be other days where we participate in socratic seminars in order to discuss something in the news or the reading we have been completing. Other days we will work in groups on our writing or in small groups, called Literature Circles, to discuss what we have been reading in and out of class. No matter what we do, you will walk out of this course being a better reader, writer, speller, and communicator.

What are Miss K's Policies about students who are absent or tardy?

- Please refer to the *Student Handbook* for CDS's detailed guidelines.
- For each day that you absent from class with a note, you will have that made days to make up the school work with exceptions of end of semester deadlines and tests. Please read all directions to make sure you do not miss these exceptions throughout the school year.
- Three tardies (without an excuse) will result in an after-school detention. By arriving late to class, you are interrupting *everyone's* learning experience. This is not fair, nor is it acceptable in our classroom.
- To help student be successful when they are absent from the classroom, I have created a website at www.misskenglish.com — this is the BEST way to know what you are missing while not in class, and how to PLAN to stay ahead when you know you will be missing class!
- Please note, if you are going to absent for more than 3 days then you MUST inform me so that I can help prepare you. If you do not contact me prior to or during the absence, then you will not be able to make up the work.

Technology Policy?

- We will use our laptops almost daily in class to help eliminate our need for paper and to help save the environment. This means that you MUST ALWAYS bring your laptop to class and it must be charged!
- Since we will be utilizing multiple platforms through GoogleSuites, you must check your Gmail daily and also store your passwords & usernames somewhere safe.
- When emailing me or any teacher, always reference our lesson on email etiquette from the beginning of the school year.
- Always back up your work! "Miss K, I lost all my work" is not an excuse in our highly functional world of technology! Always back up your work to a cloud, an external hard drive, a USB, etc.

Academic Honesty Policy?

- Students are expected to do their *own* work. Country Day School strives to provide an environment which encourages honesty and integrity. A violation of Academic Honest may include, but is not limited to:
 - Plagiarism
 - Copying work from another person
 - Giving work to someone else to copy
 - Giving or receiving answers for a test or other assignment
 - Using the internet as an answer instead of as a helpful tool
- Students who violate Academic Honesty will receive appropriate disciplinary action, and may receive a grade of a 0 for the assignment in question. The students parents will also be notified.
- Students will be required to submit most of their work to TurnItIn.com

Late Work Policy?

Work is assigned to you for your own benefit. Due dates have been created to help you be prepared for our class discussions and activities. Therefore it is vital for you to complete your work on time. By not doing the work, you will not be able to fully participate in class and it will cause you fall behind. By staying on top of your classwork and homework, you will be thankful at the end of a unit.

If you are struggling, I am your ally, not your enemy. Ask me for help! I understand that accidents happen and that life can get in the way...but you must communicate!

- No late work will be accepted after a unit's summative assessment.
- All late work must be accompanied by a "missing work" form which can be found at the front of the classroom.
- Until an assignment is submitted, a 0 will be used as a place holder in the grade book.
- Late work may not receive feedback.

What will I be graded on?

Current Events – Students individually will offer short presentations about a current event of political, economic, socio-cultural, or technological importance and then ask analytical discussion questions designed to elicit and facilitate intellectual discourse. Audience members not presenting are expected to meaningfully contribute and raise relevant issues.

Discourse and Engagement – We operate as a unit, and you will be asked to regularly contribute to discussions on issues and texts, work on projects by yourself and in small groups, etc. The more you meaningfully contribute, the better! Raising your hand occasionally and offering a one-word answer or one-sentence thought is *not* sufficient in this regard.

Public Expression – This course emphasizes the public expression of your ideas, opinions, and interpretations of various topics and events. Be it a speech, debate, or in-class presentation, you will be expected to present in front of an audience for varying periods of time. Do not worry if you are uncomfortable in front of the class at the outset; everyone starts somewhere, and you will have ample opportunities to hone your skills in this arena.

Research and Writing – Research and writing are interdisciplinary endeavors, and successful transmission of ideas is predicated on your ability to understand how to find high-quality sources, accept the tension within competing ideas, and properly use grammar, syntax, and traditional academic writing structures. We will be reiterating these elements throughout our time together, and students will be assessed on the quality of their written work in addition to the quality of the ideas contained therein.

How will I be graded?

All assignments will be graded based on the following core skill targets:

| Core Skill Targets |
|--|
| <p><u>Identification (ID):</u> Students are expected to be able to identify, as well as define the relevance and salience of, problems, issues, concepts, and ideas in a coherent, succinct manner. Students will use their understanding as a basis for analyzing, synthesizing, and communicating information, solutions, and insightful questions.</p> |
| <p><u>Critical Thinking (CT):</u> Students are expected to grapple with tension in available information or evidence and critically analyze context while discerning internal and external influences on issues or problems being considered. Students will recognize cause and effect and draw parallels while reflecting upon the interconnectedness of different concepts and ideas.</p> |
| <p><u>Synthesis (SYN):</u> Students are expected to critically engage a variety of perspectives and/or methodologies and craft novel interpretations that address problems or issues encountered during analysis. Students also will be asked to compare, contrast, and reflect upon others' interpretations to gain a holistic understanding.</p> |
| <p><u>Communication (COM):</u> Students are expected to explicate their interpretations and/or methodologies via a range of verbal and non-verbal products. Attention will be paid to cultivating the quality and clarity of expression, attention to detail, and the ability to interact with a variety of audiences in formal and informal settings.</p> |
| <p><u>Creativity (CRE):</u> Students are expected to look beyond the easy answers, push their own abilities, and seek novel ways of solving key issues, answering pressing problems, and crafting products that meet the needs, wishes, or aesthetic objectives of various audiences. Students will show a willingness to think “outside the box” and learn from multiple attempts.</p> |
| <p><u>Process and Collaboration (PROC):</u> Students are expected to fully prepare each day for class, complete all work in a timely fashion, meaningfully contribute to discussions, engage group work and other collaborative endeavors without prompting, and assist one another in growing as thinkers and learners while developing a critical yet sympathetic eye.</p> |

What is the grading scale?

Country Day School students will receive number grades on selected homework and in-class assignments, as well as on projects, quizzes, tests, and other assessments. The general guidelines for these marks are as follows:

Excellent A 93%-100% The student consistently demonstrates excellence in his/her work and has mastered course objectives. The student has evidenced depth of thought beyond stated expectations and contributed positively to all areas of classroom life.

Good B 85% - 92% The student has done above average work and mastered nearly all of the course objectives. The student applied knowledge gained to new situations and participated meaningfully in classroom discussions.

Satisfactory C 75% - 84% The student has done average work, mastered many course objectives, and participated satisfactorily in class.

Needs Improvement D 65%-74% The student has done below average work and has mastered few of the objectives of the course.

Unsatisfactory F 0-64%

The student's work fell below a level of acceptance for the course. The student failed to meet minimum expectations; no credit is earned.

Incomplete

Indicates incomplete work which will need to be made up prior to a grade being assigned. A grade of "I" is used to denote incomplete work. The work must be completed within a specified time or the grade becomes an F.

What if I have an SLP?

It is the student's responsibility to set up a meeting with me regarding any SLPs that are currently in place. You are your own advocate. I will work with you to make sure that you can learn and thrive in my classroom, but it is your responsibility to communicate with me!

How do we contact Miss K if we have questions or want to find further information?

Email: samantha.krzyzanowski@cds.ed.cr

Website: www.misskenglish.com

Come to my classroom HS 141 before school, at lunch, and/or after school!

Please sign below and return this page only by Monday, August 27, 2018

By signing below, I am agreeing that I _____ read the syllabus with my parent/guardian _____ and we understand its contents for British Literature with Miss Krzyzanowski during the 2018-2019 school. I also understand that as the school year goes on, some policies may change and that Miss Krzyzanowski will be clear to share those changes in class and digitally on her website.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____