



9th Grade English Language Arts

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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 you expect this year?

Ninth grade English Language Arts follows the Common Core State Standards, and it is meant to be a sampler course to introduce students to many different types of texts and writing styles. The Common Core asks students to read stories and literature, as well as more complex texts that provide facts and background knowledge in areas such as science and social studies. Students will be challenged and asked questions that push them to refer back to what they have read. This stresses critical-thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills that are required for success in college, career, and life. Throughout the year, we will read short stories, non-fiction articles, poems, plays, blogs, graphic novels, essays, speeches, various primary accounts, and film clips from a plethora of sources in order to expose students to diverse forms of communication. You will be expected to read, write, converse, listen, present, and research throughout the course of the school.

What texts may we read this year?

- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
 - *The Odyssey* by Homer
 - *Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare
 - *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah
 - *Alice's Adventure in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll
 - Various articles and short stories in conjunction with major texts and units
- *subject to changes

Will we read anything else?

YES! You will be required to complete a minimum of **4** independent reading projects throughout the year - *1 per quarter!* The goal of this is to help you, the student, create a reading habit. By creating a reading habit you will improve your performance across all subjects and you will get to learn about so many more things! Further details will come at the beginning of each quarter of what the independent reading projects will look like, but the main goal is to be able to share with the class/community what you read and what you thought about the book.

What will I need each day?

- laptop & charger
- blue or black pens (no pencils)
- highlighters (3-5 colors)
- 3 subject notebook
- 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 through out 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 Honesty 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 **summative¹** 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 we be graded on?

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| - Spelling practices & tests | - Homework | - Independent reading projects |
| - Grammar practices & tests | - Class discussions & participation | - Unit Finals/Essays |
| - Midterm Exam | - Reading checks | - Final Exam |

Grades will be split into the following categories:

Reading	25%
Writing	25%
Speaking & Listening	25%
G.U.M	10%
Engagement & Responsibility	15%

¹ summative assessment = a test or essay to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it against some standard or benchmark. This assessment is usually high stakes

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 students 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 English 9 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: _____