

English 11 Course Outline: Creative Writing

“Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart, and the fall through the air of the true, wise friend called Piggy.”

— William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*

The Stories We Share

- Why do people read stories?
- How do stories shape our identity?
- How does story and storytelling have a place in our culture today?

Growing Up Is Hard to Do – growth, maturity, change, and relationships

- What shapes our eyes and how we see the world as we get older?
- What does it take to understand another person's point of view?
- Why can't people just get along?
- What makes a good relationship?
- How can we be true to ourselves, yet remain loyal to our family and friends?

Resources

- Class literature circle and movie study – *Lord of the Flies*
- A selection of short stories from *Tigers of the Snow*
- Non-Fiction - selected essays
- William Shakespeare's *MacBeth*
- A selection of poetry

Writing Focus

- Narrative/memoir, expository (creative non-fiction), and persuasive/argumentative writing
- Responding to fiction - personal response and formal literary paragraphs/essays
- Creative writing - description, imagery, and using the 5 senses
- Considering voice, audience, word choice, and sentence variety in one's writing
- Revision, editing, and mechanics

Reading Focus

- Making predictions, making connections, questioning, inferencing, and synthesizing ideas
- Learning to annotate and analyze a variety of text forms

Speaking Focus

- Academic conversation and debate - class and literature circle group discussions
- Storytelling and drama/role play, group presentations
- Slam poetry, song, rap

Silent Reading

Reading plays a big role in the English 11 curriculum, and students should read every day a minimum of 15 minutes of silent reading. Students are expected to visit the library on their own to obtain new reading material.

*Please note: As the teacher -- I reserve the right to change the course outline at any time. The nature of learning is that it is often unpredictable and may take us in any number of places!

**In addition to the writing focus, you will have the opportunity to demonstrate your learning in a number of different ways: dramatic/oral presentations, letter writing, and debate.

Learning Intentions For English Language Arts

1. I can communicate my thinking with clarity and effectiveness.

2. I can make sense of literary texts and uncover the understandings that live within them.

3. I can engage in meaningful, purposeful academic discussion.