

Seventh Grade English

Overview for Parents

Teacher: Steven Glazer

Overview: In English 7 we work towards mastering the fine arts of close reading, deep listening, thoughtful analysis, clear writing, and articulate speech. Our essential question for the school year is “What is freedom?” As we consider this question, we read “I Have a Dream,” *The Call of the Wild*, literature from the women’s suffrage movement, the poetry of the Harlem Renaissance, *Great Expectations*, *The Tempest*, among many other works.

Schedule English classes meet four times each week. Each class is broken into two parts, a preliminary lesson and a main lesson. Preliminary lessons are structured as follows:

Monday: *Vocabulary* – led by Magistra Lechner
Tuesday: *Grammar* – led by Mrs. Price
Thursday: *Poetics & Rhetoric*
Friday: *Spelling*

Readings The main lessons are rooted in our study of literature. The novels on our reading list include T.H. White’s *The Once and Future King*, Jack London’s *The Call of the Wild*, and Charles Dickens’s *Great Expectations*. We study and perform scenes from William Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*. Our two major poetry units focus on the work of Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost. In alignment with seventh grade history, we study texts related to the women’s suffrage movement: “The Declaration of Sentiments,” “The Yellow Wallpaper,” and the “Shakespeare’s Sister” section of *A Room of One’s Own*. We also survey poems, short stories, and essays from the Harlem Renaissance.

Spelling/Vocabulary Goals

1. Understand new words associated with assigned readings.
2. Utilize words introduced in the *Vocabulary from Classical Roots* and spelling programs.
3. Understand and apply spelling rules and edit work for spelling errors.

Grammar/Mechanics/Usage Goals

1. Understand parts of speech, sentence structure, and paragraph construction.
2. Understand rules of capitalization and punctuation and use these rules effectively.
3. Understand rules governing usage including subject/verb agreement, using verbs and pronouns, and making appropriate word choices when speaking and writing.

Literature Goals

1. Read and study a variety of literary works: poetry, drama, essays, short stories, & novels.
2. Develop the vocabulary and conceptual framework required to examine and discuss literary works.
3. Develop the ability to respond to a variety of textual questions, including factual, interpretive, evaluative, and stylistic.
4. Understand how each literature selection connects to its historical context.

Composition Goals

1. Understand and use the writing process effectively to construct essays.
2. Understand a variety of purposes of writing.
3. Practice writing descriptive, expository, narrative, and persuasive essays, as well as a science research paper.

Oral Speaking Goals

1. Understand how to make effective classroom presentations.
2. Understand how to present dramatic readings and speak in character.
3. Understand how to participate civilly and productively in group discussions.

Expectations for Students

1. Work needs to be written neatly and headed appropriately.
2. Papers need to be kept and filed appropriately in your English binder. Binders will be checked periodically.

3. Students need to read independently in addition to completing their daily work.
4. Daily preparation and participation are essential components of the learning experience and therefore will comprise a significant portion of the final grade. The grade breakdown is as follows: grammar, 12.5%; spelling, 12.5%, vocabulary, 12.5%; composition, 25%; literature, 25%; participation, 12.5%.
5. Late homework will be marked down five percent points each day. Missing assignments will result in a zero.
6. Students will maintain a high standard of scholarship and behavior by:
 - a. Treating others as they would like to be treated
 - b. Being respectful when others speak
 - c. Coming to class prepared
 - d. Using class time effectively
 - e. Being responsible for one's own work

Homework Requirements:

1. An assignment sheet is posted each week so that students may plan their homework time around their other commitments.
2. Students should not be spending more than an *average* of thirty minutes per night on English.
3. Parents should inform me if students consistently require more than thirty minutes to accomplish the homework.

Contacting the Teacher

I am happy to discuss your child's progress with you at anytime. I am always available by e-mail at steve.glazer@crossroadsacademy.org or by phone. During the day, I can be reached at Crossroads Academy at (603) 795-3111 extension 211. You may also call me during the evening at (802) 785 - 2415.

