

WE ARE SPARTA!

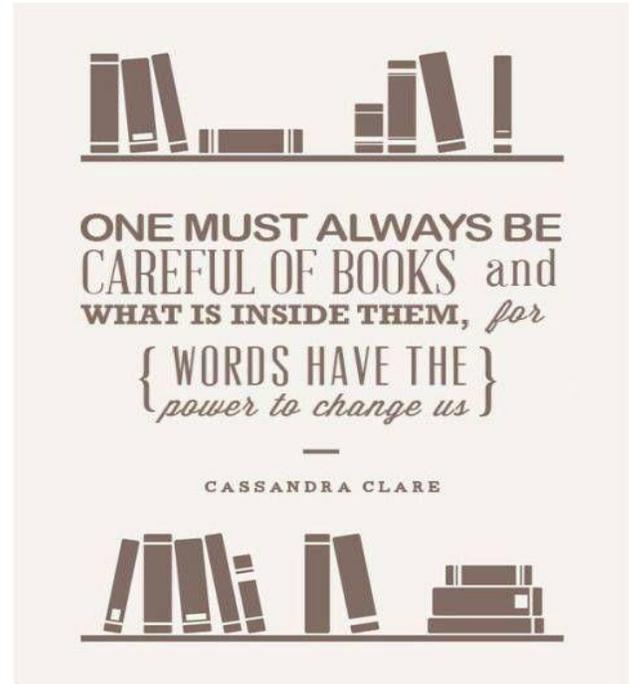
Dedicated to serve, participate, achieve, and respect!

Course Objectives & Learning Activities

Welcome to sophomore English! In this course, students will be expected to read, write, and think critically about both fiction and nonfiction texts. This course is designed to ensure that students are college and or career ready in literacy. We will use the Core standards that are organized by the following strands: Reading Literature, Reading Informational Texts, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language.

Our goal is to produce critically thinking students who can thoughtfully and skillfully articulate knowledge and understanding in writing. We will also use literature as a means to examine ourselves and the art of the written word to create passionate, informed students and citizens.

Students will focus on major literary forms, analyze the literary themes, and research and compose papers, speeches, and presentations using representative forms of discourse.



MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES:

- ✓ 3-ring binder (dividers helpful)
- ✓ Composition notebook
- ✓ A web-based data storage (like GoogleDocs)
- ✓ Copy of the current piece of literature to study
- ✓ Recommended: Post-its and page markers

GRADING:

All assignments are given a point score and placed in a weighted category as follows:

- **50% Formative Assessments** (book annotations, class discussions, writing activities, quizzes, notes, etc.)
- **30% Summative Assessments** (tests, final papers, midterms, etc.)
- **20% Dailies** (journals, prompts, practice, assignments, etc.)

POTENTIAL TEXTS:

House on Mango Street, Siddhartha, The Odyssey, The Chosen, The Rent Collector, Shakespeare, as well as selected short stories from Literature, and poetry.

*Students are also required to have an outside reading book of their choosing throughout the school year.

ASSESSMENT METHODS:

- Reading notes and annotations
- Writing responses and journals
- Essays
- Participation and effort
- General assignments
- Attendance



CLASSROOM DECORUM EXPECTATIONS:

To do well in this course:

1. ATTEND! It matters! Your presence matters!

Participation points are available every day. Parents/guardians should excuse absences through the attendance office within five days of your absence. **Attendance matters in your understanding of this course!**

Absent Work

It is the student's responsibility to make-up what they missed: notes, handouts, readings, quizzes, etc.

If the absence is excused, the student has the same number of **school days** as the number of absences to make up the work.

For work **DUE** on a day a student was absent, the student must turn it in the **FIRST** day he/she returns to class to receive full credit. Major assignments—a DUE date was established well in advance of completion (essays, projects, presentations, etc.) **MUST** be turned in **ON** or **BEFORE** the due date to receive full credit.

LATE WORK - COME PREPARED & TURN IN YOUR WORK

All late work will receive 70% credit if turned in late. Late work is only accepted for **ONE WEEK** after the original due date. If any concerns arise concerning this policy, please speak with me *beforehand* and we can discuss an alternative.

- Due dates mean assignments are due at the beginning of class, unless otherwise noted. Have your assignments in your hand, ready for me to collect, when the bell rings.
- Begin big assignments early to avoid last-minute problems. Even if you experience computer glitches, empty ink cartridges, etc., assignments are still due at the beginning of class. Remember that the school library offers computer and printer access. **You are responsible for printing your own work and turning it in on time, so plan ahead!** (Unless otherwise noted in class, assignments will NOT be accepted by email.)

2. PARTICIPATE:

Students earn daily participation points for attendance, performance, classroom behavior, some in-class assignments, and start-up activities. This makes a difference in your grade.

3. TREAT OTHERS RESPECTFULLY:

I expect you be respectful in your interactions with me and the other students in our class, to use respectful language at all times in class, and to treat classroom materials with respect.

4. DO YOUR OWN BEST WORK

Cheating and Plagiarism will NOT be tolerated. Any student who participates in cheating will receive a zero on that assignment and a U in citizenship. Cheating is also using peers' answers. Six word in a row from any source is plagiarism! *Any student who participates in cheating a second time in the same class will receive an "F" for that term.*

5. CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones are not allowed in class, unless a teacher specifically instructs students to use their cell phones. Electronic devices such as video games, MP3 players, iPods etc. are also not allowed. Headphones and earbuds are not allowed in class, and students are expected to remove them before entering the classroom. Cell phones and other electronic devices that are used during class will be confiscated, without warning, and given to an administrator.

CITIZENSHIP CRITERIA:

Your citizenship grade may be determined by your behavior in class, attendance or truancy.

Grading: Satisfactory (S) or unsatisfactory (U). Any U must be remediated prior to graduation.

If there is a perceived error, any grade change must be completed within the following quarter or by June 30 for the fourth quarter.

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act: *Ongoing critical evaluation by peers which may include the exchanging of student work, will be used to enhance the educational process. Ultimately the final assessment is the job of the teacher. Student privacy will be respected when providing class grades and other confidential information.*

Please keep pages 1-2 for your records.

(PLEASE print clearly!)

Student's Printed Name: _____

Period: _____

We have both read the **English 10 Disclosure Statement**, discussed the grading structure, and understand the expectations for Ms. LaFortune's class.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

In our class we encourage community and respect of everyone. To foster this culture and environment, students will be doing student interviews and profiles throughout the year. Pictures, only with the students and parents permission may be taken.

Our class also has social media accounts (@linesoflit) to document achievements, learning activities, and exciting opportunities. Follow along! Students may occasionally be featured in an appropriate and kind manner with their consent. If permissible, please read and sign below.

D. Wright

Public Relations Specialist
Office: 264-7400 Fax: 264-7456
E-Mail: dwright@murrayschools.org

Permission to Photograph/Videotape/Film

Student Release Form:

I hereby grant permission for my child to be photographed, interviewed, videotaped or filmed for the purpose of media activities, including social media, featuring students from schools in the Murray City School District.

I understand that my child's image or voice, individual or as part of a group, may appear on internet or print media. I also understand that this permission is voluntary and my child is not required to participate in any media event.

PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

Date

PARENT OR GUARDIAN PRINTED NAME

Phone numbers