

English 1 Syllabus

Instructor: Charlene Merchant

Class Period(s): 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7

Prerequisites: acceptance into East Early College HS

Instructor's E-mail: cmerchan@houstonisd.org

Instructor's Office Hours: conference periods are 3rd on A days and 8th on B days.

Description of Course:

Vocabulary Development: SAT Practice lists

Writing: Daily journaling based on the literature we read. Formalized papers due twice each grading period.

Editing: Students will learn ways to edit and revise papers, increasing the fluency of their writing.

Reading: Summer book, Selected readings from Literature book, topics for 1st semester are:

Storytelling, Passages and Experiences. Topics for 2nd semester are: Family, Mysteries and Classics; Novels: *The Color Purple*, *Chinese Cinderella*, *Parrot in the Oven*, and *Metamorphosis*.

College Readiness: Assessments will be periodically given to assess college readiness.

Literacy: Students will learn skills in reading and writing to improve understanding and analysis of literature.

Class format: We will use Socratic Seminars, Projects and Presentations, Discussions and Dialogue, in a student centered atmosphere. Assessments will be authentic, and students will be given a variety of methods to demonstrate mastery of reading, writing, editing, revising, as well as vocabulary and literacy skills.

HOMEWORK: Homework in Early College will consist of reading, vocabulary development, writing papers, studying for tests, and completing projects. There will be few worksheets, if any.

Textbook Titles: 6 works will be studied: **Tangerine** by Edward Bloor; **Romeo and Juliet** by William Shakespeare; **The Color Purple** by Alice Walker; **Chinese Cinderella** by Adeline Yen Mah; **Parrot in the Oven** by Victor Martinez; and **Metamorphosis** by Franz Kafka.

Supplies/Materials Needed:

Students will need a black and white composition book for journaling, BLACK ball point pen, pencil, loose leaf paper, highlighters, posterboard, unlined paper.

Grading Scale: Grading

- I use a total points system, assigning varying numbers of points for assignments.
- Students will have ample opportunities to master any objective, and assistance is always available during Advocacy periods on Tuesday or Thursday, as well as in the academic class enrichments on Friday. HCC also has an online tutorial program in which students may participate.
- All papers must be submitted to turnitin.com. No paper will be graded until the confirmation number is put on it.
- Students are required to participate in a class blog. Information on that is on the Class Expectations Sheet.

Technology Integration:

Students will use internet sources to do research. They will be required to respond periodically to a class blog, and all formal papers will be typed according to MLA style, and submitted to turnitin.com before they will be accepted for grading. Students may choose to use technology with presentations, including but not limited to i-pods, powerpoints, digital photos, LCD projectors and laptops. Students will have the opportunity to use word processing devices that may be checked out from the library. Additionally, students may correspond with the instructor by e-mail.

Major Projects and Due Dates:

There will be a major project each 6 weeks period, and due dates will be announced cycle by cycle.

Tangerine: scrapbook and reading journal, due first day of school from summer work.

Romeo and Juliet: projects will include illustration, puppetry, journalistic endeavors, and literary pizzas.

Chinese Cinderella: projects will include literary pizzas, study of calligraphy, cultural interests like bound feet, and comparative cultural subjects.

The Color Purple: projects will include literary pizzas, quilts, hats and dramatic interpretation, as well as illustration.

Parrot in the Oven: projects will center on literary terms, and will include manipulatives, presentations and production of figurative language.

Metamorphosis: project involves deep reading for description and creation of a model to reflect details read.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

1st 6 weeks: Study of **Tangerine**; writing with NJWP editing; using textual references to prove points in writing; personal reflection paper; seminars, discussions and presentation of projects. Discussion will center around family dynamics, treatment of disabled students in school, parents' treatment of family issues, criminal behavior by teens.

2nd 6 weeks: Study of **Romeo and Juliet**; deep reading of a play; life of Shakespeare; cultural differences in treatment of women and children; arranged marriages; gangs/family feuds; comparison with modern day poem about a mother/daughter relationship; comparative study with a parody of the play; study of diction, mood, tone, motifs, metaphors, similes and symbolism. Discussion will center around decision making,

role of priest in tragedy, family dynamics, the feud, absolute power in government, how stubborn people become tragic heroes.

3rd 6 weeks: Study of **Chinese Cinderella**; deep reading of an autobiography; compare civilization in China and US, treatment of children; stepmother persona; family dynamics; treatment of women; bound feet; disabilities caused by cultural norms and compare to today's practices (tribal facial scarring, etc). Discussion will center around the family dynamics, success in the face of oppression, and the strength of a person's character.

4th 6 weeks: Study of **The Color Purple**; deep reading of a novel that is not in traditional form; rural southern US setting in modern times; compare treatment of people with the Renaissance period and the 1920's; themes of abuse and neglect, abandonment, absolute power, role of the divine in life. Discussions include family dynamics, success, and character strength.

5th 6 weeks: Study of **Parrot in the Oven**; centered study on figurative language; novel is about young man with decisions to make; themes of prejudice and oppression, death and dying, sports as a way out of poverty, vanity, gang involvement, near disaster due to weapons, migrant workers' plight. Discussions center around success in school, life and grief recovery.

6th 6 weeks: Study of **Metamorphosis**; deep reading of a descriptive novel; themes of isolation and abandonment; rich descriptive language; some science fiction related incidents. Discussions center around family and each person's role in the family.

Classroom Policies: Class Expectations

- Be on time and prepared with all supplies and prior reading done.
- Meet deadlines, and makeup work is your responsibility. Tests are given as makeups on Tuesday mornings. Late work is not accepted for full credit.
- You are allowed ONE HALL PASS per six weeks' period.
- I do not give grades, you earn them. I keep the records.
- Your lack of effort or not keeping up with your work will not ever constitute an emergency for me. I do not give extra credit.
- RIGHTS: You have the right to be in the right place at the right time, with the right supplies and the right attitude, doing the right thing to get assignments done right the first time so that you will be right in line with your classmates on graduation day, in the FIRST CLASS of EECHS, to receive both a diploma and an Associates' Degree, and this is your personal responsibility.