

# World Literature A & B

## CLASS OVERVIEW

World Literature is an upper-level high school class focusing on **readings** from world authors. Most readings are selected from *Collections Grade Level 12* textbook. We will also read and discuss poetry, informational texts, and novels. Responding to these readings, students will assess evidence, state conclusions, construct arguments, and write effectively. Students will write narrative, informative, analysis, and argumentative papers. Students will also continue to study grammar rules and sharpen their oral presentation skills.

Text selections may include:

- *Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
- *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
- *The Thief and the Dogs* by Naguib Mahfouz
- *When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julia Otsuka
- *The Latehomecomer* by Kao Yang
- *In the Shadow of the Banyan* by Vaddey Ratner
- *1984 & Animal Farm* by George Orwell
- *Hamlet, Macbeth, and Beowulf* by William Shakespeare
- *The Death of Ivan Illich* by Leo Tolstoy
- *I Am the Messenger* by Mark Zuckoff

There may also be Book Club self-selections, including stories from Laos, Cambodia, China, Russia, and India.

**NOTE: World Literature is no longer a required English course for graduation. It is an option.** Other available courses are Alaska Native Literature, Alaska Literature, Creative Writing, Advanced Placement Composition/Literature, Journalism, and Native American Literature.

In World Literature, we will focus on the reading, writing, and speaking skills to help you be successful in college, your career, or your vocation. **Reading will be emphasized, and active discussion/participation is integral to success in this course. Be ready: you will be expected to talk to other people and do presentations.**

We will focus on the following skills, aligned to the Alaska State Standards, in this class:

### Reading

- What does the text **say**? (Summarizing skills)
- What does the text **do**? (Reading like a writer)
- What does the text **mean**? (Making inferences)

### Speaking & Listening

- Stand and speak effectively and confidently in front of a group of people
- Actively listen to others—and carefully consider what is said and what is not said

### Writing

- Structured and unstructured writing prompts
- Focus on Narrative, Informative, and Argumentative writing

Other important goals for the class:

- Read every day for 15-20 minutes
- Read widely
- Read critically and annotate text
- Track thinking throughout a book
- Be able to discuss your reading meaningfully
- Develop competence as a writer
- Sharpen your presentation skills

(Gallagher)

Important considerations:

- Most of the coursework will be accessible digitally. You are expected to bring your charged laptop to class each day. We will use it daily.
- Cell Phones: We will take “Brain Breaks” -your phone will be available in the door organizer for the entire class period. Communicate with me if you need it for an emergency.
- For unexcused tardiness, join me after school to make up for the lost class time and the inconvenience you caused for being late. If you do not show up, it will result in an office referral. Be to class on time.

### CLASS PROCEDURES

Procedures are essential for creating an effective and successful learning environment.

Be **helpful** and **respectful** to others and the classroom learning environment.

**Bathroom:** If you must use the bathroom, sign out on the board, clean up after yourself while using the facilities, and place a check on the board indicating that you have left the bathroom clean. Never go when someone is talking or providing direct instruction. If you notice a mess in the bathroom, notify me immediately; otherwise, you will be responsible for cleaning up, regardless of whose mess it is. One person out at a time and prop the door open when you leave.

**Start of class and end of class:** We will begin immediately by doing a brief English lesson on grammar, literary devices, and writing. This will be on the board as you walk into the room. Please keep productive until dismissed.

**Homework/assignments** must be done *by the beginning of class* to be considered on time.

**Late work:** For each day late, you will be deduced one letter grade. **All late work must be submitted by the end of each month**, excluding presentations. You must notify me if you submit something late; otherwise, I will not grade it.

**Absences:** You have the number of days you were absent to turn in assignments for full credit.

**\*\*** *You are responsible for getting the missed work from me **before** or **after** school.*

Missing work due to absences or traveling will be a zero (Z) until you complete it. You will be given credit for the assignment when it is turned in. **YOU MUST EMAIL ME** when late work is done.

#### ASSESSMENTS:

Mastery=90-100%; Grade level skills=70%-89%; No Credit=below 70%

Your final grade will be as follows:

Participation 30%    Assessment 30%    Skills Practice= 40%

**Cheating and Plagiarism:** In signing the technology agreement at the beginning of the school year, you contracted not to plagiarize. Consequences for plagiarism - no credit for the assignment and office referral. Do not cheat.

Plagiarism is:

- To steal and use the ideas or writings of another as one's own
- To appropriate passages or ideas from another and use them as one's own
- To take and use as one's own the writings or ideas of another
- When using another's thoughts or ideas in your work, whether you have considered, paraphrased or quoted them, **ALWAYS** cite your sources! (Drake)

#### COMMUNICATION

My email address is christya@mehs.us. My phone number is 966-3213. The best time to reach me is during my prep period or immediately after school. You can always communicate with me through Google Classroom or email. I am available to discuss topics relating to our class or your stay here at MEHS.

**I believe in your potential to succeed in this class. Let's have an awesome trimester!**

I have read and understood the class requirements:

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(Student signature)

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(Date)