

Mr. Mildon's Syllabus and Grading Scale
12th Grade British Literature and Language Arts
2nd Term

Areas of Study In the Classroom

(These are the primary units and areas of focus this term)

-Literary Terms (theme, characterization, symbolism, antagonist, protagonist, etc.)

We will learn terms and definitions and how each one is used in fiction

-Argument Writing

We will learn how to construct an argument using claim, evidence, counterclaim, and warrant.

We will practice writing several different argument papers to prepare for the SAGE Test.

-Informative Writing

We will learn the difference between argument and informative writing and construct informative papers. Again we will write several papers to practice for the SAGE Test.

-Medieval Period

Continuing our British Literature focus, we will study a couple of stories from the Medieval Period. We will understand Medieval Period customs, economic struggles, lifestyles, and writing styles. We will also connect the Medieval Period literature back to our own lives.

-Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

We will first take a look at Shakespeare and The Early Modern Period (Formally known as the Renaissance Period). We will identify the primary themes in *Macbeth*. We will learn Shakespeare's many motifs and their significance to our own lives. We will determine what makes *Macbeth* such a timeless and popular work. Because Shakespeare wrote plays that were intended to be seen (not just read), we will look at scenes from three different adaptations. Students will give a close reading to key passages in the play.

Grading

Assignments and tests will fall under one of two categories:

In Class work—which will be weighted 65% of the term grade

Homework—which will be weighted at 35%.

Students and Parents can determine what each student would like to get out of English this term. Each student will be able to work toward the grade they would like to earn for the term.

D(65%)

Students will need to attend class regularly, pay attention, contribute, and complete all in class assignments. Because time and help will be given to complete each in class assignment, there will be no late work for in class assignments. (The only reason assignments will not be completed and handed in on time will be because students chose to not complete them).

Students will be allowed to make-up four excused absences during the term. Students will need to get with Mr. Mildon upon return to get absence work. Work must be completed and turned back in on the next class period or it will remain a zero for the day.

Students that want to just pass the class do not need to complete homework. We will accomplish enough in class to earn a 65% or D grade.

To earn a C,B,or A grade

Students will need to earn the 65% as mentioned above.

Homework will make up the other 35% for the term grade.

Homework assignments for 2nd term

- 1- *Macbeth* Poster and Theme Paper 5% (Due Dec 1st –Last late day Dec 5th).
- 2- Research and Argument Paper 10% (Due Dec 22nd –Last late day Jan 5th).
- 3- Read a preapproved nonfiction book (200 or more pages--one you haven't previously read) and complete book report 10%
- 4- Read a British novel of your choice (200 or more pages--one you haven't previously read) and complete a book report 10%

The students will be required to read three books this term, however one of the books is *Macbeth* and we will read this together as a class, in-class. The book report will also be completed in class. The other two books will be read as homework and the book reports will be completed as homework. Both books need to be preapproved with Mr. Mildon before the student begins reading. The two books may be read in any order. If the student decides to only complete one of the two outside reading assignments, it may be either book choice and the book report can be handed in at either book report due date.

-Book Report #1 (Due Nov 21st –Last late day Dec 1st).

-Book Report #2 (Due Dec 23rd –Last late day Jan 5th).

Rubrics will be given for each of the four assignments. A student will not receive full points for just completing the assignment. Each assignment will be graded according to the rubric and points awarded accordingly.

Grading Scale-

A:93% --- A-:90% --- B+:87% --- B:83% --- B-:80% --- C+:77% --- C:73% --- C-: 70% --- D+:67% --- D:63% --- D-:60% --- F: Below 60%

Extra Credit

***Extra Credit can only be applied to the term grade if the student has a passing grade (60%).

Available Extra Credit this term:

-Donate one or more books to the classroom. Donate a new or used copy, hardbound or softbound of *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak and receive a 3% increase on your term grade (one grade increase, example: B+ becomes an A-).

-Watch a play or movie. This extra credit is only available to those that turn-in all in-class and homework assignments. It does not take the place of homework or classwork.

For complete instructions on how to complete this extra credit, please see the "Extra Credit" tab on my website for details. One page papers on theme must be at an "A" grade level and follow MLA format for credit. Please see "Resources" tab on my website for help on MLA format.

Late work

Class assignments- Students are expected to come to class, participate, and complete assignments.

Therefore late work is not needed for in-class work.

Homework- Each homework assignment has a due date. All due dates are listed (above) and students are expected to turn-in assignments on time. If additional time is needed, a late date is also listed next to the assignment due date (above). Students are allowed to hand in the assignment without a loss of points by the late assignment date. Students are not permitted to hand-in an assignment past the late due date. The assignment will be a 0 after the late due date.

Deciding What Grade to Work Toward in English

As you and your parents decide what grade you want to work toward this term I have included a chart on the next page to help you.

I would love to see all of my students work toward an “A” grade, but the reality is that it isn’t feasible or desirable for every student. An “A” grade requires a lot more time and dedication outside of class than a “C” grade does. For some, the trade-off isn’t worth it or even necessary.

Here are some questions to ask yourself as you make your decision:

What does each letter grade mean? How do I know what grade I should work for?

To earn a higher grade it requires more practice, time and effort. Am I willing to put in the time?

On the next page I have created a graph to help you decide what your future goals are and how much time you need to give English class to help you meet those goals.

Every student situation is different and this graph does not guarantee success or failure for anyone. This graph however does point out a truth for everyone: either you do the work now or you do it later. If you want to be successful in college, tech school, or in a career, reading and writing at a certain level is required. If you don’t want to put in the time and practice now (while it is free), you will need to put in the time later (when it can be expensive). It is your choice, I am here to help you learn the skills, you need to decide your level of commitment, and then practice the skills. Yes grades are important, but what is more important is obtaining the level of education and learning that you will need to be successful in life. You decide—I will help you!!!

Here are some things to consider as you decide what grade you would like to earn:

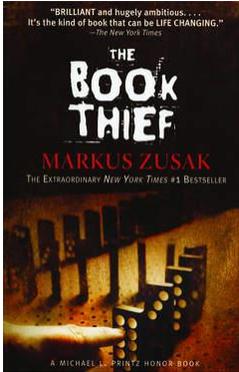
Deciding What Grade to Work Toward in English

Grade Earned	How much work is required?	How does this level prepare me for my post high school experience?	How will I do on end of level testing?
F Below 60%	Students that earn a failing grade do not attend class regularly and/ or do not participate in class or turn in class assignments.	Because of lack of practice, students will struggle at jobs that require any reading or writing for training or to perform their job.	Again because of lack of practice, we would expect students to be well below proficient on their language arts' tests
D 60%-69%	Students need to attend class regularly, participate, pay attention, and complete class assignments (no homework required).	These students will be ready to enter entry-level positions that require little reading or writing. If the goal is to learn a trade or get a license from a technical school, they will probably need some remedial English classes at the tech school to complete book and writing assignments.	We would expect to see these students receive an "Under Proficient" score on end of level testing.
C 70%-79%	Same as D students plus they will need to complete 1 homework assignment at 100% or they will need to complete all homework assignments at a 70% level.	These students have sufficient practice in reading and writing to earn a trade degree or license. They may require some additional tutoring and help on papers in tech school. If they seek a bachelor degree from a university, they may need to take remedial English classes at college and will benefit from English tutoring or writing lab help.	We would expect to see these students nearing or testing at proficient on end of level language arts' tests.
B 80%-89%	Same as D students plus they will need to complete 2 homework assignments at 100% or all assignments at an 80% level.	These students will do fine in a tech or trade school. They will also do well on reading and writing assignments in college. They may need additional resources in college such as the writing lab to help edit papers. If currently a sophomore or junior student, I would encourage they take an AP English or Concurrent English class next year to prepare them for college work.	We would expect to see these students at or above proficient on the end of level language arts' tests.
A 90%-100%	Same as D students plus they will need to complete all homework assignments above a 90% level.	These students have shown that if they continue at this level, they are ready for reading and writing assignments on a college level. If currently a sophomore or junior student, I would highly recommend and encourage they take an AP English or Concurrent English class next year.	We would expect to see these students test above proficient on the end of level language arts' tests.

Extra Credit Book Donation

The 1st term Extra Credit Book Donation project was so successful, that I have decided to do it again 2nd term. The extra credit is a 3% increase in the term grade for students that donate one or more books to our classroom.

Option 1- Students/Parents may purchase and donate to the classroom used or new copies, hardbound or softbound of:



The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

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If you have any questions about the class grading system for 2nd term, please ask.

My email is: damildon@wsd.net

Please sign and date that you have read the 2nd term grading scale, that you understand the late work and make-up work policy, and that you will work toward the grade that you would like to earn in the class.

You also understand that in order to pass this class you must regularly attend class and participate and turn-in all class assignments. You are allowed to make-up 4 excused absences. You must meet with Mr. Mildon the day you return to find out how to make-up class work. You will need to meet with Mr. Mildon at an appropriate time, which is generally before or after school or during 1st lunch. With 36 students each class period, Mr. Mildon cannot meet with students about missed classwork during class.

Student Name _____ Period (please fill in) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent or Guardian Signature _____