

Literature & Composition

Ms. Salter

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Textbook: *Elements of Literature*, third course

Novels: In addition to *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton (the summer assignment) it is expected that we will read (at minimum) the following novels in class. If possible, please purchase a personal copy of each book so that you can take notes in the margins and highlight important passages. **Any objections to a novel should be made in writing by September 1st so that alternate arrangements can be made.**

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Cold Sassy Tree by Olive Ann Burns

The Princess Bride: S. Morgenstern's Classic Tale of True Love and High Adventure (The 'Good Parts' Version) by William Goldman

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Maus I by Art Spiegelman

In addition, we will read Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* which is included in the literature book as well as a variety of short stories, essays, poems, and other work.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Honors English I is designed to lead students to an in-depth understanding of both the structure and the meaning of a work of literature. Students will work to hone their writing skills in order to communicate their thoughts clearly and logically to an audience. This course emphasizes intensive literature critique, personal, technical, and expository compositions, vocabulary development, public speaking skills, and research skills. A variety of methods will be used to enhance students' critical thinking. Extensive reading is required throughout the entire course. The following are overviews of the Georgia Performance Standards for 9th Grade English:

- **Reading and Literature:** Focusing on a study of literary genres, the student develops an initial understanding of both the structure and the meaning of a work of literature. The student develops an initial understanding of the way the form of a work of literature affects the meaning of the work and of the process of interpretation of a text. The student reads thoughtfully and purposefully, constantly checking for understanding of the author's intent and meaning in order to determine a sound interpretation.
- **Reading across the Curriculum:** The student reads both informational and fictional texts in a variety of genres and modes of discourse, including technical texts related to various subject areas.
- **Writing:** Technical writing is the focus for 9th grade. Other forms of writing will also be emphasized, including research, persuasion, and rhetoric.
- **Conventions:** Instruction in language conventions (grammar, usage, mechanics, and punctuation) will occur within the context of reading, writing, and speaking rather than in isolation.
- **Listening and Speaking:** The student observes and listens critically and responds appropriately to written and oral communication in a variety of genres and media.

MS. SALTER'S POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Class Expectations: Saltervilleans are expected to be students of high personal character. This means:

1. **Be respectful:** This includes respect of me, each other, all OHS staff, and the learning process and environment. Use polite language, listen when others are talking, no cell phones during instruction, no grooming in class, no packing up before the bell, etc.
2. **Be trustworthy:** Have high personal and academic integrity. Any plagiarism or cheating will result in a zero. No exceptions. Remember, by the first few weeks I will know your writing style and voice and will be able to tell if it suddenly changes.
3. **Be accountable:** This includes accountability for school policies, missing assignments, classroom procedures, and most importantly, your words and actions. Of course, we all mess up sometimes. Remember, a sincere apology will go a long way.
4. **Be mature:** Running indoors, pushing, and yelling are middle school behaviors. Get up to throw away trash (*no throwing in Salterville*) and leave the room as neat as you found it. Please check to see that the area on and around your desk is clean, materials are returned, and that your seat is in its proper location before you leave each day.
5. **Be prepared:** Have all necessary materials at your seat when class starts. You will need the book we're reading, paper, and writing utensils every day. Make sure your book bag is fully stocked. If you need to borrow materials, ask no fewer than five people before you ask me. In addition, bring personal reading or other assignments to occupy yourself during times in which you find yourself done before others.