

English 10 Honors Course Syllabus

In this year-long course, students in semester one of *English 10 honors* apply the idea of responsibility to their study of language, literature, informational texts, writing, and speaking and listening to their roles as entering high school students and emerging adults. Students examine the questions, *What does personal responsibility look like? What traits should it include? What is the relationship between personal responsibility and social justice? How do rhetorical modes impact personal responsibility and social justice? To whom and for what are we personally responsible? How does power or the need for power influence behavior and impact society or humanity? Which more strongly evokes human compassion, fiction or non-fiction? How can words inspire?* by studying age-appropriate literature, as determined by critical research, pilot studies, and current educational use. Students read and improve their understanding of fiction and nonfiction, analyze literary themes, structures, and details, and use techniques of research and technology to produce and present oral and written compositions.

The *English 10 Honors* curriculum uses the works listed below for study because of their literary merit, as recognized by standard local, national, literary, and educational sources. Their study in the high school classroom, therefore, enables students to apply critical thinking processes to realistic issues encountered in the world and in widespread, contemporary culture, and to understand and appreciate mature literature in order to enrich and extend the experiences of their lives. We encourage parents and guardians to participate fully in their adolescents' education, to read along with them and to discuss literature together as they emerge into adulthood. Students focus on examining the development of the individual, writing formal and informal texts, discussing them within a community of learners, and analyzing literature and informational text. Additionally, the course *English 10 Honors* helps develop a fluent and proficient reader through additional instruction in language acquisition and comprehension strategies. The daily instructional outcomes align to the Common Core State Standards for Reading, Writing, Language, and Speaking and Listening. *English 10 Honors* prepares students to take the PARCC Assessment and for Advanced Placement Language and Literature in grade 11.

Units I-III: Personal Responsibility 9 weeks

Students establish strategies for reading literature and informational text, such as close reading, and explore themes such as defining character, rights and responsibilities, and inspiring change, in traditional and modern literature. Students synthesize their understanding of literature and writing by writing to source, completing research, and literary analysis.

Basic Texts: Pearson *Common Core Literature*, *Things Fall Apart*, *The Grapes of Wrath*

Units IV-VI: Personal Responsibility 9 weeks

While adding to their repertoire of skills, students examine the impact of shaping self, informed choices, and responsibility and the common good, in literature and in informational text. Students will use research to provide an argument. An assessment modeled after the PARCC Assessment will serve as a portion of the final exam.

Basic Texts: Pearson *Common Core Literature*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Worst Hard Times*