



Mrs. Kerr
9th Grade Honors English
2025-26

- Email: kerrc@wellesleyps.org
- Canvas: wellesley.instructure.com
- **Office Hours:** Monday & Wednesdays 2:30-3:00
 A Block - Days 1, 3, 4, 6
 After School - Mon & Wednesday 2:30-3:00
 (You can also email me to set up a meeting time.)

Don't forget – the English Resource Center is always open during A block as well as many other blocks during the day!

Welcome to Wellesley High School! You have elected to take honors English, so I anticipate that you will share my passion for reading, writing, and engaging in dynamic discussions. While our lesson format will vary throughout the year, our learning objectives, essential questions, curiosity, and commitment to fostering a positive, respectful class environment will not change.

English 9H Common Student Objectives/Core Skills:

- To become an *active/close reader* who increases their understanding and appreciation of texts by recognizing *and* analyzing the function of literary devices, such as: conflict, characterization, symbol/motif, allusion, figurative language & theme. We will hone these skills by [practicing active/close reading strategies](#).
- To identify, compare, contrast, analyze, and make connections to (verbally and in writing) texts of various literary genres.
- To build an inclusive and participatory classroom atmosphere and sense of belonging that allows us to honor and develop our core values of achieving academic excellence, fostering cooperative and caring relationships, respecting human differences, and committing to community.
- To understand literature as both window and mirror. To build empathy for others and be able to shift perspectives to understand another's experience and point of view. To express ideas articulately and sensitively, to listen well, and to collaborate productively.

- To continue to develop a personal writing style that demonstrates logical development of unique ideas; clear and cohesive structure; relevant textual evidence; purposeful word choice; clarity of thought and expression; and to participate in the writing process of pre-writing, drafting, revising, proofreading, and peer and self-assessment.

Course Specifics

Writing	Literature	Grammar/Punctuation
Topics Include: - personal narrative - expository essay - discussion post - MLA formatting and citations - summarizing - avoiding plagiarism - brainstorming, drafting, editing - topic sentence/thesis development - selecting & developing evidence - quote integration - transitions/flow strategies - introductions and conclusions	Selected texts and units may include: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> <i>The Kite Runner</i> <i>Frankenstein</i> <i>Lord of the Flies</i> <i>Greek Mythology</i> <i>In addition, you will also choose texts to read for literature circles.</i> Other <i>We will also read nonfiction articles, short stories, and sonnets.</i> Language Vocabulary Development: Membean	- sentence structure - sentence types - sentence combining (with appositives, participles, action verbs, conjunctive adverbs, etc. - comma rules - semicolon, colon, dash
Classroom Community Building community in our classroom is always crucial in allowing us to delve into the richness of literature and our experiences with it, and it has never been more important than this year after so many months of disrupted classroom time. We will commit ourselves to building this community where all students are valued for their unique perspectives and experiences. We will commit ourselves each day to interacting with our texts and with each other in a safe, lively, and thought-provoking classroom community as we learn about ourselves, our potential, and our world.		

Academic Integrity:

- The use of AI without express teacher consent will result in a zero on the assignment and disciplinary action.
- Sparknotes, Cliffnotes, etc. are not to be used. Use of such material is considered cheating. The material you are given may be challenging, but you will be provided with the resources and skills you need to meet challenges.

- When given a writing assignment, you are encouraged to bring your drafts to the Writing Lab, your special education teacher, or your academic teacher; however, parents, tutors, siblings, and friends should **not** be doing your work for you. If I am grading something, the work should be yours and yours only. Plagiarism, or using bits, pieces, or all of someone else's work without sourcing it, will lead to an automatic zero and administrative action. Remember, no one will be helping you during in-class essays or other major writing assignments—if you don't learn the skills on your own, you will not do well on these assessments.
- Please see the [Student Handbook](#) for the school's policies regarding plagiarism and cheating.

Grading Policy & Missing Class:

- Homework is due by the start of class. Homework, unless otherwise noted, is worth 5 points. Failure to submit homework by the start of the class results in a 0. Homework can not be made up as we will be going over and discussing the work in class the day it is due.
- Assignments submitted to Canvas will be run through Turnitin.com. If you cannot upload documents, *please see the tech department for support.*
- If you are absent for one day, the homework is due the day you return. It is the student's responsibility to submit the work (in other words, don't wait to be asked for the missing work).
- When absent, check Canvas and check in with a classmate. You can also stop by in person before or after school.
- If absent on the day of a test or writing assessment, email me to set up a time to take the assessment (no later than one day after you return from an absence). Most tests require one hour, so be prepared to come in at 7:30 or stay until 3:30. *You can not "drop by" to take a test.*
- Major assignments submitted late will accrue the following penalties: 24 hours late (including weekends) 5 point penalty, 48 hours late (including weekends) 10 point penalty, 72 hours late (including weekends) 15 point penalty. Beyond 72 hours, work will earn a maximum of 50%.

In the event of my absence from class, you will receive an announcement in Canvas with the day's assignment and homework. Classwork must be submitted by the end of the block unless otherwise noted.

I am happy you are here, and I look forward to getting to know you!

