

English 9 Syllabus

2025-2026

Teacher: Mr. Oberdorf

Room Number: 144

Email: oberdorft@penntrafford.org

Phone: 724-744-4471 ext. 1144

Literature: We will be going in-depth this year by reading novels, poetry, drama, and short stories. The majority of the material we cover will come from reading different types of literature, both fiction and non-fiction. Therefore, you should expect to be reading **both** in and out of class.

Discussions: You will be expected to have completed assigned readings; therefore, you should come to each class prepared to participate in discussion. Whether it is in-class readings or homework, you should always be prepared to share and discuss each class. Opinions in this class will **always** be valued and respected.

Writing: We will be doing many different types of writing in this class. There will be TDAs, 5-paragraph essays, journaling, poetry, and research tactics.

Vocabulary: In addition to vocabulary that will be presented and tested within novels, short stories, poetry, etc., there will be a “Word of the Day” with the intention to expand your vocabulary and prepare you for SAT and Keystone testing. The words will be given in chunks of 15 and you will be assessed on each list. For vocabulary tests, you will be expected to know a word’s definition, spelling, and part of speech. You will also be expected to be able to identify words in context and write your own sentences using the words with context clues to provide your knowledge of the meaning of the words.

Assessments: Assessments will be given in many forms. There will be tests in addition to more hands-on assignments, such as group or independent projects, and pop quizzes are always possible as well. Students may also randomly receive participation or discussion points for certain class periods. Students will always receive a rubric for assessments worth a large number of points. I will always let students know well ahead of time when assessments will take place.

Plagiarism, ChatGBT (and other AI-related things): In the age of technology, it has become very simple (and tempting) to use someone else’s work as your own. **Copying and pasting information from a website, article, blog, another student’s work, etc. without creating a Works Cited page or giving credit to the original author is plagiarism! This will not be tolerated.** Any student found plagiarizing will receive a zero on the assignment and **WILL NOT** be permitted to redo the assignment for even partial credit.

- Additionally, you **will not** be permitted to use ChatGBT or other similar services for literary analysis essays or TDAs; use of ChatGBT, or anything like it, on these types of writing assignments, **will be considered cheating.** Expectations for students to produce original work in all of my classrooms are clear. Whether copied from their peers, taken without credit from online resources, or created using AI, students will not receive credit for any work suspected of being plagiarized or otherwise not authentic. **If suspected, the burden of proof for authenticity is on the students.**

Absences/Make-Up Work: If you are absent, **YOU** are responsible for checking lesson plans and Google Classroom to find out what you missed and making up your work, including quizzes and tests, in a timely manner. You will be allotted the number of days you were absent to make up the work that you missed. For example, if you were absent for one day, you have one day to make up the work. You must make arrangements with me immediately about making up a test or quiz, and all quizzes and tests must be taken in my classroom. A missed assignment, quiz, or test will be entered as a zero in PowerSchool until it is made up within the time allotted (again, one day absent = one day to make up the assignment/quiz/test).

Late Work Policy: You are expected to submit all assignments by the due date, which will always be clearly communicated to you. In-class work/homework assignments submitted late **will not always be accepted**; if I do decide to accept late in-class work/homework, it **will be deducted 5% points** each school day that it is late. After 5 school days, the in-class/homework assignment will **NOT** be accepted. Larger assignments, such as essays or projects, will be penalized **5 points** for each school day that it is late. After 5 school days, the larger assignment will **NOT** be accepted.

Google Classroom/Lesson Plans Link: All assignments, assessments, activities, materials, and due dates will be posted and clearly communicated through our class's lesson plans document (linked on my teacher page) and our class's Google Classroom page daily. Please bookmark them!

Classroom Procedures and Expectations

1. In this classroom, you will be treated as young adults. **This means I expect you to be respectful of me and other classmates and responsible for your own actions and learning.**
2. **Come to class prepared.** You are expected to bring the following items with you each day: a notebook/binder **specifically** designated for English, a writing utensil, your **charged** iPad, any materials we may be using (i.e. novels, packets, worksheets), any homework assignments, and **I highly suggest a planner to record assignments and get organized!**
3. **Come to class on time.** As stated on page 10 of the [Student Handbook](#), "Students should report promptly to class and arrive before the late bell rings. Students arriving after the ringing of the late bell will receive a tardy to class/study hall. Each of the first 2 offenses will be recorded by the teacher/supervisor. The 3rd offense will result in a teacher detention. Upon the 4th tardy and beyond, a disciplinary slip may be sent to the office. School officials may require doctor's excuses for excessive tardies. Tardy counts reset at the beginning of each semester."
4. **Place your cell phones in the classroom phone caddy immediately upon entering the room and before taking your seat.** As stated on page 28 of the [Student Handbook](#), phones must remain in the caddy for the entire class period. Students are not permitted to have their phones in their possession during class or when going to the restroom during class. Phones must be off or on silent. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action as follows:
 - 1st Offense: Verbal warning, confiscated and returned at the end of the period. Parent contact by the teacher.
 - 2nd Offense: Confiscated, parent contact by the teacher, turned in to the office and returned at the end of the day.
 - 3rd Offense: Confiscated and the parent must pick up the phone.
 - 4th Offense: The phone must be turned in at the main office upon arrival and may be picked up at the end of the day for the remainder of the semester.
 - Further/Other Offenses: Office Referral - Saturday Detention, In-School and Out of School Suspension.
5. **Use the SmartPass appropriately.** You are not permitted to go to the coffee shop at any point during a regular class. If the SmartPass is abused, your privileges will be taken away.
6. **No food in class.** There are too many risks and it will not be an option. Water bottles and drinks will be permitted. Just be careful!
7. If you are confused, having trouble, need to ask a question, want to discuss, etc., feel free to speak to me before or after class or school or just send me an email—I am here to help!
8. **Check Powerschool regularly.** I will update very consistently. Be sure to notify me about any issues.
9. **Please keep in mind:** there are going to be reading and assignments that you will need to do on your own. I expect that you will read and analyze assignments even when there is not an immediate assessment attached. I will not make you do irrelevant things; everything will ultimately lead to an assessment of some kind. I don't mind if you work on certain things together, but please don't **cheat, plagiarize, share answers, or do anything else you know you shouldn't do.**
10. Follow all rules and expectations set forth in the [Student Handbook](#).

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Mr. Oberdorf

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am excited to have your child in English class for the 2025-2026 school year. I want to assure you that I am committed to working with your child so that this school year will be one that is safe, fun, and successful.

Please complete the below portion to show that you have read and understood the above information with your child. You can detach this paper and have your child turn in this paper to me in class. It needs to be returned no later than **Friday, August 29th**, as it is important to the class.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns through email at oberdorft@penntrafford.org or by phone (724-744-4471 ext. 1144). Thank you!

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Information (Email/Phone Number):

