



## **English 10: American Literature Course Overview 2023-24, with Mr. Guinan**

presents an exploration of the themes and achievements of American authors, as well as a literacy skill building course designed to improve close reading skills, composition techniques, and test-taking strategies. CTA draws on AP Literature and AP Language curricula in sequencing the upper school language Arts program from grades 7-12.

### **Course Outcomes:**

Throughout the course, students will

1. Through CLOSE READING, *learn* literary devices and terminology used in non-fiction, short stories, novels, drama, and poetry
2. *Follow* the development of American Letters, from Colonial to Contemporary American authors
3. *Consider* a work's structure, style, and themes as well as smaller scale elements such as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.
4. *Write* focusing on critical analysis of literature including expository, analytical, and argumentative essays as well as creative writing to sharpen understanding of writers' accomplishments and deepen appreciation of literary and rhetorical artistry.
5. *Learn*, through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, the resources of language: connotation, metaphor, irony, syntax, diction, and tone.
6. *Write* creatively, applying technique of form and structure to their own imaginative work
7. *Utilize* the methods of effective standardized test analytical compositions, including the basic ACT essay
8. *Practice* for standardized tests like the OGT, SAT and ACT, using **IXL**
9. *Utilize* techniques for effective composition including the 5 paragraph essay
10. *Study* rhetoric forms in persuasive writing
11. *Master* clarity in writing and grammar through the grammar curriculum
12. *Employ* effective techniques of verbal communication, through discussion, debate, and oral reading.
13. Take the MAP test for literature and composition, to track progress in reading and writing.

### **Homework**

includes close reading assignments of literature texts, IXL exercises, and extended response/essay writing. Major Assignments include writing tasks of sustained depth, and will be weighted accordingly.

### **Expect**

To read and write everyday.

### **The content of the course**

includes the following units and subunits, which can run concurrently:

- I. American Literature
- II. Composition
- III. Grammar and Mechanics

**Evaluation:** Language Arts work includes written homework, quizzes, tests, essays, speeches, and public readings. I use a rubric designed for each assignment, most of which based on the [AWESOME-SOLID-BASIC scoring](#). TAKE NOTE OF THE NOT TURNED IN POLICY. [The AP Lang/Lit 6 point scale will also be used for certain writing assignments.](#)

For more information check out [English 10 on Mr. Guinan's Internet Inventory](#).