

**ENGLISH 1 HONORS
302403HW**

Melanie Gillen

Teacher Contact Information

- mgillen@greenville.k12.sc.us
- (864) 355-6892
- [Mrs. Gillen's Website](#)

Course Description

- English 1 Honors is a course for academically gifted students who have the ability to pursue an accelerated English program. These students may be preparing for Advanced Placement English - college level courses - in high school; therefore, the coursework will reflect more rigor than English I CP. Note: This course carries Honors GPA weighting. Prerequisites: High level of performance in reading and writing skills, ability to think critically and demonstrated enthusiasm for language arts, and/or teacher recommendation. All GTA identified students should enroll in the Honors level course.

Learning Objectives

- I can support my analysis and understanding of a text by citing relevant details from that text.
- I can analyze similar themes across multiple texts by comparing and contrasting the development of those themes as well as the specific details surrounding them.
- I can analyze the author's choices regarding the development of characters, ideas or themes, the setting, as well as the structure of the text.
- I can analyze and evaluate how effective an argument is.
- I can determine the author's purpose in a text and analyze the effect it has on the text itself.
- I can analyze literary devices as well as word choice in order to better understand a text.
- I can determine the meaning of words using context clues and roots, prefixes, and suffixes.
- I can use English grammar and conventions appropriately and correctly.
- I can apply the writing process through planning, drafting, revising, and editing.
- I can write an effective argumentative essay.

Course Outline/Pacing/Scope and Sequence

Unit 1: Against All Odds Suggested Pacing: 40 days	Thematic unit based on HMH <i>Into Literature</i> textbook Writing focus: argumentative essay
Unit 2: Breaking Through Barriers Suggested Pacing: 44 days	Thematic unit based on HMH <i>Into Literature</i> textbook Writing focus: personal narrative
Unit 3: Love and Loss Suggested Pacing: 44 days	Thematic unit based on HMH <i>Into Literature</i> textbook Writing focus: literary analysis or informative essay
Unit 4: Freedom at All Costs Suggested Pacing: 48 days	Thematic unit based on HMH <i>Into Literature</i> textbook Writing focus: research essay

Materials

- Pencils/Blue or black pens
- Divider tabs
- Highlighters
- One dedicated binder section in team binder
- Post-it Notes
- Pencil pouch

Textbook Title

- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) *Into Literature 9 & Grammar Practice 9*

Annotated Book List

Literary works that may be used in class:

The Odyssey by Homer: "*The Odyssey* recounts the adventures of Odysseus on his way home to Ithaca after the Trojan War. Although originally written in heroic verse, it has been called the first novel because of its exciting use of narrative and the effective use of flashbacks to heighten the dramatic action. While *The Iliad* is a collection of mythical material that grew up about an event that seems actually to have occurred toward the end of the Mycenaean era, *The Odyssey* is largely a collection of folk tales, many of which are easily recognizable in the legends of other lands." -- Synopsis by Amazon

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton: "No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows

that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. But not much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up on “greasers” like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far.” Synopsis by Clams Overdrive

To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee: “One of the most cherished stories of all time, *To Kill a Mockingbird* has been translated into more than forty languages, sold more than forty million copies worldwide, served as the basis for an enormously popular motion picture, and was voted one of the best novels of the twentieth century by librarians across the country. A gripping, heart-wrenching, and wholly remarkable tale of coming-of-age in a South poisoned by virulent prejudice, it views a world of great beauty and savage inequalities through the eyes of a young girl, as her father—a crusading local lawyer—risks everything to defend a black man unjustly accused of a terrible crime.” -- Synopsis by Harvard University

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare: “William Shakespeare's passionate tale of two young lovers whose relationship is doomed from the start due to their families—the Capulets and the Montagues—being mortal enemies.” -- Synopsis by Abe Books

Potential Lit Circle Novels

Red Queen

“*Red Queen*, by #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Victoria Aveyard, is a sweeping tale of power, intrigue, and betrayal, perfect for fans of George R.R. Martin's *Game of Thrones* series. Mare Barrow's world is divided by blood—those with common, Red blood serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities. Mare is a Red, scraping by as a thief in a poor, rural village, until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court. Before the king, princes, and all the nobles, she discovers she has an ability of her own. To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. As Mare is drawn further into the Silver world, she risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard—a growing Red rebellion—even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction. One wrong move can lead to her death, but in the dangerous game she plays, the only certainty is betrayal.” (Amazon.com).

Maze Runner

"When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone. Outside the towering stone walls that surround them is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive. Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying: Remember. Survive. Run." (Amazon.com)

Divergent

"Perfect for fans of the Hunger Games and Maze Runner series, *Divergent* and its sequels, *Insurgent* and *Allegiant*, are the gripping story of a dystopian world transformed by courage, self-sacrifice, and love. Fans of the *Divergent* movie will find the book packed with just as much emotional depth and exhilarating action as the film, all told in beautiful, rich language *One choice can transform you.* Beatrice Prior's society is divided into five factions—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). Beatrice must choose between staying with her Abnegation family and transferring factions. Her choice will shock her community and herself. But the newly christened Tris also has a secret, one she's determined to keep hidden, because in this world, *what makes you different makes you dangerous.*" (Amazon.com)

Hunger Games

"In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. Long ago the districts waged war on the Capitol and were defeated. As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called, "The Hunger Games," a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the Games. The terrain, rules, and level of audience participation may change but one thing is constant: kill or be killed." Amazon.com

Lord of the Flies

"At the dawn of the next world war, a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. At first, with no adult supervision, their freedom is something to celebrate. This far from civilization they can do anything they want. Anything. But as order collapses, as strange howls echo in the night, as terror begins its reign, the hope of adventure seems as far removed from reality as the hope of being rescued." (Amazon.com)

Ready Player One

"In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. The only time Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the OASIS, a vast virtual world where most of humanity spends their days. When the eccentric creator of the OASIS dies, he leaves behind a series of fiendish puzzles, based on his obsession with the pop culture of decades past. Whoever is first to solve them will inherit his vast fortune—and control of the OASIS itself. Then Wade cracks the first clue. Suddenly he's beset by rivals who'll kill to take this prize. The race is on—and the only way to survive is to win." (Amazon.com)

1984

"George Orwell depicts a gray, totalitarian world dominated by Big Brother and its vast network of agents, including the Thought Police, a world in which news is manufactured according to the authorities' will and people live tepid lives by rote. Winston Smith, the hero with no heroic qualities, longs only for truth and decency. But living in a social system in which privacy does not exist and where those with unorthodox ideas are brainwashed or put to death, he knows there is no hope for him. He knows even as he continues to pursue his forbidden love affair that eventually he will come to destruction. The year 1984 has come and gone, yet George Orwell's nightmare vision in 1949 of the world we were becoming is still the great modern classic of negative Utopia. It is a prophetic and haunting tale that exposes the worst crimes imaginable: the destruction of freedom and truth." (Amazon.com)

Videos

[Commonsense Media](#) can provide additional information about the above texts.

Below is the list of videos we may watch throughout the year.

Parents: Please review the following titles and let your student's teacher know if there is a movie you do NOT want your student to view.

- [Romeo and Juliet](#), 1968
- [Romeo and Juliet](#), 1996, PG-13
- [The Odyssey: The Clash of the Gods](#), 2009 PG
- [The Outsiders](#), 1983, PG-13
- [To Kill A Mockingbird](#), 1962, NR

Grading Policies/Practices

Grades	Homework	Grading Scale		Planned Projects
Per GCS policy, there will be a minimum of 8 minor grades and 3 major grades per quarter.	Independent Reading	90-100	A	Unit tests and Projects
		80-89	B	
	Projects	70-79	C	Text Dependent Analysis
		60-69	D	
	Any work not completed during class	0-59	F	See Google Classroom for other projects and assessments.
		Per GCS policy, majors are 60% and minors are 40% of your overall grade.		

Classroom School Late Work and Retake Policies

Late Work

Missing Work Due to Not Handed In

- Assigned work that is not handed in by the due date will be recorded in the gradebook as a code of **NHI**. The code of NHI equates to a score or zero in the gradebook.

Missing Work Due to Student Absences

- Assigned work missed due to an absence will be recorded as **MDA** in the gradebook. The code of MDA equates to a score of zero in the gradebook.
- Students have five (5) school days after returning from an absence to submit missed work.
- If a student misses a major assessment while absent, on the first day back, arrangements should be made with the teacher to make up the assessment within five days.

Retakes

Students are expected to submit all assigned work. Assignments that are not recorded in the gradebook are intentional steps to ensure student mastery of standards.

- Students will have the opportunity to retake major assessments however, essays, projects and performances that are assigned major assessment grades are not eligible for a retake.
- Once grades for the assessment are posted, the student will have five (5) days to complete the school Google Form indicating they intend to retake the assessment.
- The teacher will provide a reteaching opportunity, and schedule a time for the student to complete the retake.
- Students must have completed all minor assessments associated with the instructional unit in order to complete the retake.
- An alternate assessment or revised learning task may be used to demonstrate mastery of the same standards measured by the original assessment.
- The highest score will be placed in the gradebook.
- All assessments must be completed by the end of the grading period.

Classroom Expectations

Beginning of class:

- Take a seat, complete the bell-ringer and wait for further instructions.
- **During class:** Be an active participant in your learning. Listen, collaborate, and ask questions.
- **End of class:** Stay in your seat until dismissed by the teacher.

A Few Non-Negotiables

- Cell phones should be off and secured in backpacks. Violation of the cell phone rule will result in a referral.
- Water is permitted in a closed bottle. Straws are not allowed. No other food or drinks may be brought into the classroom.

Magic School

- This year, students will use MagicSchool AI, a generative AI platform designed specifically for education. As tools like ChatGPT and Gemini become standard in the professional world, utilizing MagicSchool prepares students for the future workforce by teaching safe and responsible technology use.

- Students will use these tools for real-time feedback and dynamic problem-solving. To ensure appropriate use, teachers retain access to all student chats. MagicSchool strictly protects privacy and does not collect or utilize student data. All AI software, including MagicSchool, complies with GCS Board Policy and Administrative Rule IA.

Generative AI

This course may utilize generative AI tools, such as MagicSchool and Google Gemini, to supplement traditional instruction. Greenville County Schools prioritizes the ethical use of these technologies for brainstorming and self-guided learning.

- **Critical Thinking First:** AI must not replace original thought or coursework.
- **Academic Integrity:** Using AI to complete and submit assignments as original work constitutes plagiarism.
- **Required Citation:** If teacher-approved, all AI use must be properly cited.
- **Content Awareness:** Students must remain vigilant regarding potential biases and inaccuracies in AI-generated content.
- **Policy Compliance:** All AI programs align with GCS Board Policy and Administrative Rule IA.