English - Grade 9 Syllabus

# Mr. Rex Stacey

# School year: 2020-2021

## Course Description:

This year we will be doing a great deal of reading. We will use our terrific Glencoe literature book for short stories by authors like Edgar Allen Poe and plays like The Miracle Worker, the story of young Helen Keller. We will read classic novels like George Orwell’s Animal Farm, Ray Bradbury’s chilling look into the future (a future that seems to be here today) Fahrenheit 451, and of course Harper Lee’s masterpiece, To Kill A Mockingbird. Last but certainly not least is the bard himself, Mr. William Shakespeare. We will pick parts and read the timeless story of the “star crossed lovers” Romeo and Juliet, and will discover what ambition can do to a person in Macbeth. I can’t wait.

# Grading:

Grading will be based on a running total expressed in Skyward as the percent of total points earned out of the total number possible during the quarterly grading period. Grading categories and percentages are broken down as follows: Homework 15, Papers 10, Quizzes 10, Tests 50, and Class Participation 15. Please note this last category. I base my class on a discussion oriented format. We read, then we discuss. Class Participation is worth 15% of your grade. It is based on how engaged a student in our class discussions, our question and answer sessions, and participation in our readalouds. Yes, we read a lot in class, and I do my share of reading also. Class Participation is a good way to earn points while keeping the class lively, so be sure to stay engaged in what we’re doing. If you’re worried about reading aloud during class, please don’t be. No one in my room is the best reader in the world, and if you need help with a word or sentence, I’m here to help. This is a safe place to read. I strongly urge everyone to be able to log on to Skyward in order to keep track of grades, and eliminate any surprises at grade card time.

# Homework:

Students should expect to have homework almost every night. Most of the assignments will be reading, but there will be times when there will be after reading or discussion questions to answer and turn in the next day. I often will give a pop quiz the day after a reading assignment. I don’t try to trick anyone. My pop quizzes are extremely easy if you read. If you didn’t read, you will be lost, so be sure to read what I assign. I won’t cover you up with homework because I know you have work for other classes as well. I always review thoroughly before a test, so note taking is extremely important. Written homework must be written neatly or typed, and of course all papers must be typed.

# Communication:

I can be reached by email at anytime. My address is rex.stacey@hopecharter.org. If emailing me, please use your school email so I will know the message is real. I update my website every weekend, so please refer to it to see what’s going on and what the week’s assignments are going to be. Please don’t be alarmed if what I say we will be doing does not match exactly with are actually doing day by day. I don’t mind getting a little behind the schedule I have set if we are in the middle of a great discussion. I will never stop a class that is engaged and excited just to follow a schedule. What we don’t get to today, we will do tomorrow. I’m also here all day, so come on in if you have a question or want to discuss something. As I said before, this is a safe place.

# Supplies:

Students will need access to a computer to type the appropriate assignments, and a printer to print them out. Homework assignments not typed must be turned in on 3 ring binder loose leaf notebook paper, not spiral. I suggest a composition book for notes, but whatever works best for the individual student is fine. You will need folders with pockets to neatly keep hand outs I will give throughout the year. Written homework must be typed or done in pen, and be neat and legible.

I disliked the way last year ended so much. For me the fun of teaching is to be together with all the kids in the room having great discussions and sharing ideas and opinions about what we are reading. I’m really looking forward to this year and seeing all of you, some again, and some for the first time!