



## Course Information & Class Guidelines

### Contact Information

HORNSJ@PWCS.EDU (Ms. Horn)

### Course Overview:

Over the course of the school year, students in English 9 will study several major genres of literature. These genre units have both **LANGUAGE TARGETS** (what big ideas students need to understand) as well as **CONTENT TARGETS** (what students should be able to DO with the big ideas). During these units, students will be expected to read, write, speak, and listen.

In addition to the genre units, English 9 also includes Vocabulary and Grammar units that are taught concurrently with the genre units. These units focus on foundational skills that will help students succeed on both the English 11 Reading and Writing SOL exams.

### Units of Study:

Ongoing units . . .

*Vocabulary (Greek Roots, Common Idioms, Homonyms)*

*Grammar (Parts of Speech, Basic & Advanced Sentences, Punctuation, Capitalization, & Error Correction)*

*Research/Writing Skills*

First Semester . . .

*Critical Reading Strategies*

*Short Fiction*

*Mythology / Folklore*

*Novel Study (**To Kill a Mockingbird** and [provided we have enough time] **The Hunger Games**)*

Second Semester . . .

*Poetry*

*Drama*

*Nonfiction*

*Media Studies*

***Students should expect to have a PRE-TEST at the beginning of each unit of study, as well as an OBJECTIVE TEST and a PERFORMANCE TASK at the end of the unit.***

### Standards of Learning:

There is no SOL exam given for English 9. However, every topic of study is related to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade SOL objectives and is designed to help students prepare to pass both the Reading and Writing SOL Exams – given in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will take a final exam at the end of the course that covers the concepts taught during the school year.

**Textbook:** Holt McDougall Literature, Grade Nine

Teachers will keep a class set of Grade Nine textbooks in the classroom that will be used for class activities throughout the year. However, textbooks will not be distributed to students to take home and keep. Required reading passages will be posted on Schoology whenever possible.

## COURSE GRADE DESIGN

Grades will be calculated based upon the following categories. A percent score will be awarded for each assignment.

### **Classwork / Homework**

These activities are designed to allow students to practice specific skills. Tasks will be assigned point values depending on the time and effort required to complete the work. Point values for these tasks generally range between 10 – 50 points per task.

### **Assessments**

These tasks occur after instruction and practice and include, but are not limited to: tests, quizzes, essays, speeches, or projects. The point value of an assessment will vary depending on the amount of material covered and/or the time required in its completion. Assessments generally range between 50 point (for a quiz) – 300 points (for a large project)

#### PWCS Grading Scale

A = 90-100%	C = 70-76%
B+ = 87-89%	D+ = 67-69%
B = 80-86%	D = 60-66%
C+ = 77-79%	F = 59% and below

*The use of the following place holders will be used in the course gradebook with the following score.*

<b>NHI = 0</b>	Used to identify an assessment or practice that was <b>NOT TURNED IN</b> .
<b>AB = 0</b>	Used to identify an assessment that a student <b>MISSED DUE TO AN ABSENCE</b> , regardless of type of absence. The grade remains a zero until the missed work is completed.
<b>EX = Exempt</b>	Used to identify a task or assessment that was not given to your student. This may include enrichment or re-teaching tasks that did not apply to your student, but may have applied to other students in the class. <b>This does not negatively affect the marking period grade, nor does it raise the grade.</b>

## Late Work

Students are expected to all complete assigned work by its due date. If, for some reason, a student is unable to complete an assigned task by the due date, late work will be accepted up to two weeks from the due date if it is accompanied by a completed, and signed, Late Work Form. All late assignments will receive a 10% grade penalty.

Students who have an **EXCUSED ABSENCE** on the day an assignment is due may turn the work in at the beginning of the following class period with no grade penalty.

## Class Expectations

All students are expected to follow the rules outlined in the Prince William County Code of Behavior.

In addition, I also expect my students to ...

### Be Here

You don't learn anything if you aren't here in class! Come to class and be on time to get the most out of each day.

### Be Kind To Others

Everyone has the right to feel safe and respected in the classroom. Students should show consideration for their classmates through both their words and actions. Offensive or abusive language or actions are not allowed.

### Try Your Hardest

Every class activity is important! Do your best so you get to practice new skills BEFORE the test! We learn the most from our mistakes so make a lot of them! ☺

### Follow Directions

If a request is reasonable – don't argue unnecessarily – DO IT. If you don't understand why a request is being made or think the request is unreasonable, discuss it maturely until a solution is found.

### Ask For Help

When you don't know how to do something – ASK! Your teachers want to help you but we can't read your mind. Let us know when you need a little extra help.

## Teacher Support

Your teachers are here to help you! Sign up to stay after school, or message me through Schoology if you have a question or concern.

## Materials

Students must have the following materials with them **each day**:

- Blue or black ink pen or sharpened pencil
- 1-inch 3-ring binder - JUST FOR ENGLISH CLASS!

Additionally, it is **recommended** that students also have the following:

- Highlighters
- Colored pens / pencils

### **! Reading Materials !**

During the course of the school year, your child will read several texts in his or her Language Arts class. Some of these texts will be required for whole class or small group instruction, and those texts are listed on this syllabus and have been formally vetted. Other texts that students select for independent reading are not necessarily included on the Prince William County Instructional Reading List. If for any reason you are not comfortable with your child reading a certain text, please contact me so that we can work together to find an appropriate alternative.

## Hall Passes

Students are expected to be mature enough to plan their restroom breaks during their pass time between classes. Hall passes are intended to be used for emergencies **only**. Passes should be requested only at **APPROPRIATE TIMES** and should not interrupt class lessons. Students who have excessive requests for hall passes will be sent to the school nurse or to their administrator for counseling.

**Please complete the following and return it to Ms. Horn no later than September 9<sup>th</sup>.**

*I understand that Ms. Horn's full course syllabus and class guidelines will be posted on both her Brentsville and Schoology web pages and will be available at any time. I also understand that I may request a printed copy of either document for my reference.*

Student Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student email (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time to Call:  8 a.m. – noon  noon – 2 p.m.

Parent/Guardian email (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

**Anything your teachers should know about you?**  
(talents, interests, hobbies, illnesses, family circumstances)

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**Student Schedule**

BLOCK	COURSE	TEACHER	ROOM
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

**Clubs:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sports:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(please indicate if you are a member of, or plan to try out for, the school team)*