

## English 9 2023-2024

**Teacher Name:** Mr. Eli Dreilinger/ Ms. Lori Lavoie

**Campus/Classroom Number:** Roy C. Ketcham High School, Room 206/208

**Website:** <https://www.wappingersschools.org/Domain/3222>

**Email Address:** eli.dreilinger@wcsdny.org

**ELA Office Phone Number:** 845-298-5100 ext. 31158

\*Email is the preferred, and most efficient way of contact. If you prefer a phone call, please email me and let me know a good time to call you.

### Course Description:

The English 9 course is designed to introduce you to concepts and skills that students will need for ELA classes during their time in high school, as well as beyond. The reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills that will be taught and practiced throughout the course are a vital part to a students' development. Students will read an array of literature from diverse voices ranging from American classics to British plays, and from society's earliest writings to up-and-coming contemporary pieces. Students will begin to learn how to write in a formal style required to pass the ELA Regents exam in 11th grade through frequent writing opportunities in both creative and rhetorical styles. Students will also sharpen grammar skills, diversify their use of sentence structures, and begin to develop voice in their writing. Students should be prepared to exercise their critical thinking skills throughout the year, and be ready to accept and hurdle any challenges that arise in their learning process.

**Possible Readings:** These are the books that I plan to teach this year, however, I will adapt and adjust course materials as needed throughout the year in order to ensure the course best fits the needs of the specific students in each class.

- *The Odyssey*, Homer
- *Monster*, Walter Dean Myers
- *Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare
- *The Book Thief*, Marcus Zusak
- *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury

### Required Student Materials:

- 1 Marble Composition Notebook to be kept in the classroom
- Writing utensil of choice
- **Fully charged & ready-to-go Chromebook EVERYDAY!**

### Behavioral Expectations:

1. Follow directions the first time that they are given.  
"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." – Nelson Mandela
2. Respect your community, your peers, your teacher, and yourself.

“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will spend its entire life believing that it is stupid.” –Albert Einstein

3. **Take responsibility for your actions, thoughts, and words.**

“In the long run, we shape our lives and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our own responsibility.” –Eleanor Roosevelt

4. **Raise your hand to leave your seat or before speaking.**

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.” – Malcolm X

5. **Always give your best effort.**

“I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying.” –Michael Jordan

### **Bathroom Policy:**

Every student has a right to use the bathroom when they need to use it. However, in order to maintain a classroom community and encourage haste, only **1 student** will be able to use the bathroom at a time. If you must use the restroom, please raise your hand, ask, and then you will join the line. Once the person before you comes back, you may take your pass and use the restroom. Since only one person can use it at a time, please make sure your bathroom trips are efficient so other students can also use it.

### **Cell-Phone Policy:**

In order to be successful in any class, students need to be attentive and focused throughout instructional activities. Because of this, it is essential that students keep their phones away during class time. If I see a student on their phone, I will give them one warning and a reminder to put their phone away. If the phone is out again, I will write a referral to their principal and they will take care of it on their end. If there is a situation where you must be attentive to your cell-phone, please let me know **before class** begins. After 3 referrals, no more warnings will be given and a referral will be automatically written.

### **Late-Work Policy:**

We will have very assignments that you will need to complete at home. In other words, **the majority of work will take place during class time.** In addition, most assignments will jump off from the other. Therefore it is important that you complete all assignments by the time they are due so you do not fall behind. All students need to make sure they are utilizing classroom time efficiently.

Despite this, late work is always accepted until either the interim report, or the end of the quarter, whichever comes first. If there are any concerns about making up work or keeping up with classwork due to specific conditions, please let me know. I will work with you in order to make sure you are able to have the enriching educational experience you deserve and desire. :)

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is defined as “the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own” (Merriam-Webster). Copying someone else's work, whether it be copying another student's assignment or copy and pasting work from the internet will result in a **0**. Also,

copying work from ChatGPT is obvious, and I will grade them accordingly. **ChatGPT work is not high quality, and will receive poor grades.**

**Attendance Policy:**

Since there will not be much homework in this class, it is essential that you make sure you are present everyday. If you miss a day, please check Google Classroom. Any assignments, updates, or news will be posted in the morning. If there are no updates on Google Classroom, or you are unsure what to do, please reach out to me via email.

**Possible Assignments:**

- Journal Prompts
- Narrative Essay
- Text-Analysis Essay (Regents Exam)
- Argument Essay (Regents Exam)
- Research Essay
- Book/Story Presentation
- Ethical Debate

**Grading:**

TBD

**Course Outline:** This course is divided into 7 main units that we will discuss throughout the year. Students will explore each topic to create their own understandings and meetings through assigned literature, writing assignments, and classroom activities.

Quarter	Units
1	<p><b>1. Launch/Identity-</b> This unit will allow students to explore their own identities while also celebrating the diversity within the class. This unit also should be used to practice classroom routines and set a tone for the year.</p> <p><b>2. Myths, Allegories, and Archetypes-</b> This unit deals with the commonality of character and the human condition across time culture.</p>
2	<p><b>3. Outsiders and Outcasts-</b> The focus in this unit will be on how authors develop characters and how characters change over the course of the text.</p> <p><b>4. Power and Conformity-</b> Students will understand how power is acquired and used and the positive and negative effects of power on individuals and groups.</p>

3	<p><b>5. Seeking Justice-</b> In this unit, students will begin to see variations of equity and fairness and the ways in which socioeconomic factors, social hierarchy, and marginalization affect an individual’s quest for justice.</p> <p><b>6. Critical Media Literacy-</b> Preparing students for civic engagement is an essential part of our curriculum. In a world where they are overwhelmed with information, students must learn to distinguish what is valuable and reliable from what is not, and learn to seek information from a variety of sources, so they may develop and communicate ideas effectively. Teaching students to be critical “readers of their world” across media is the central focus of this unit.</p>
4	<p><b>7. Choices and Consequences-</b> This unit asks students to consider their choices and the consequences that follow. Students will encounter individuals, both fictional and real, who struggle with understanding their role in controlling their own destinies.</p>

Please keep the syllabus for your information. Remove this section to return, signed, to Mr. Dreilinger:

By signing below, I am agreeing that I have seen and read the policies above, and will be accountable for the content listed in this syllabus throughout this academic school year.

Course Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s/Guardian’s Names (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s/Guardian’s Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s/Guardian’s Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s/Guardian’s Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Concerns Regarding Your Child: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_