



## Course: Junior English - American Literature

Teacher: Mrs. Barbara Perkins ■ [bperkins@greateratlantachristian.org](mailto:bperkins@greateratlantachristian.org)

### *Welcome Juniors!*

To study literature is to study the history that shaped great writers through the centuries. This course will feature prominent American writers and their works in chronological sequence throughout our nation's history. Literature in any language or culture can only be studied successfully if studied in the context of the historical periods that shaped and influenced the writers. Welcome, then, to a stimulating study of great American Literature and the history that inspired it!

This course will also challenge you in several other areas of language arts study: writing, vocabulary building, grammar review, research, and thought-provoking class discussion. The hope is that if one studies the works of effective communicators involving the components of effective communication, one will indeed become a successful communicator in his own right. Both semesters will include an intensive vocabulary study involving Latin and Greek roots. This study is a solid, etymology-based vocabulary program. Strengthening vocabulary in this way will help you in all content areas in addition to improving standardized test performance. The ultimate goal of this course is to prepare you well for senior English and beyond. With that in mind, I hope you're up to the challenge before you. American history and literature are two passions of mine and I am eager to share them with you!

**During the fall semester** we will study: *Our Town*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Scarlet Letter*, the Puritan Tradition, the Romantic Movement, and the Transcendental Movement. We will close the first semester with an introduction to Realism in American literature. The Research Paper project and five-paragraph essays will also be part of both semesters of work. The final Research Paper will be due in March 2009.

**During the spring semester** we will study: *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Red Badge of Courage*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the Realistic Movement, Modern Prose, Modern Poetry, and the Harlem Renaissance. Essay writing, creative writing, the final research paper deadline, and a spring project will also be a part of the second semester's work.

### **YOUR BEHAVIOR / ISSUES OF RESPECT:**

1. Follow my directions the first time given.
2. Show respect to your fellow students and to me at all times. Disrespectful comments or actions will not be tolerated.
3. Speak only when it's your turn, not when someone else is talking or during times when I've instructed not talking. I will allow frequent times to talk quietly and relax.
4. It is your responsibility to know school policies regarding behaviors such as: dress code, tardiness, cell phones, etc. **AND** to follow them at all times.
5. Avoid profanity, suggestive, or questionable language --even before or after the bells and in the hall.
6. The only food or drink allowed in this class is bottled water.
7. Leave your cell phone in your locker. I do not allow cell phones or other electronic devices in my classroom.

### **YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**1. Be in your seat with proper materials when the tardy bell rings.** If you enter the room after the tardy bell rings, you will sign a tardy list. If you have a note from a teacher or administrator, you will sign the list, indicate "note" in parenthesis by your name, and clip the note to the clipboard. After the fourth tardy, I will contact your parents to inform them of your habitual tardiness. After the fifth tardy, you will receive detention, and consequences quickly become more severe after that.

**2. Be prepared.** Do not ever come to class unprepared, and never attempt to finish homework at the start of class. **You will not be permitted to return to your locker to get materials you have forgotten.** The first time you come unprepared, I will simply note it. The second time, I will communicate with your parents. The third time you come to class without the required materials or preparation, you will receive detention. It is important for you to keep in mind that being unprepared will sooner or later have an adverse effect on your grade in this class. Bottom line, I expect you to do your work, turn it in on time, and always have the necessary supplies to do your best in class. No assignments will ever be accepted late, except for situations involving illness/excused absences. Finally, to receive full credit for daily work and homework, you must follow my instructions for headings, labeling, etc. I will make this clear during the first week. Information is available online as well.

**3. Accept your responsibility to make up work.** Regarding homework: If you miss one class day when homework is due, that assignment must be given to me the day you return to my class as soon as you come to class. It will not be accepted beyond that

point. The exception would be if you are absent for an extended period of time. Regarding tests & quizzes: All missed tests or quizzes must be made up within ONE WEEK of returning to class. A zero will be recorded by your name until the makeup grade takes its place. After one week, the zero will be permanent if the work has not been made up. The exception would be if you are absent for an extended period of time. (If you only miss a test day, I prefer that you make up the day THE DAY YOU RETURN either before or after school. YOU WILL MAKE UP ALL TESTS AND QUIZZES WITH ME IN MY ROOM. It is YOUR responsibility to find out what material you have missed and what assignments you have missed while not in class. It is also YOUR responsibility to schedule makeup tests and quizzes. I will be happy to help if you have questions or concerns; however, if you wait for me to remind you or take care of it, that will not happen, and your grade will suffer. Any time you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to check my web page to find out what you have missed. Do not wait until the day you return. ALL TESTS AND QUIZZES WILL BE MADE UP IN MY CLASSROOM.

**4. Stay on task.** I will not tolerate a student’s wasting time or working on assignments for any course other than American Literature. If you make it your habit to follow my instructions fully, you won’t have a problem staying on task in this class. I communicate regularly with parents and coaches!

**5. Don’t use study aids improperly:** Using such materials as “Cliffs Notes,” “SparkNotes” or on-line support can in many situations help you in your understanding of difficult material. I don’t have a problem with your using these supports. However, I guarantee you that your grade will suffer if you rely solely on this type of abbreviated material. I expect you to read all assignments in full. **Also, you may not bring study aides to class at any time.** Feel free to use them at home, however.

**THE GACS HONOR CODE:**

**In order to maintain honor in my relationships, I agree to do what is right, to speak the truth, and to strive for integrity in all that I do. Therefore, I will not be involved in lying, cheating, or stealing. If I do vary from this path of honor, I will accept the correction from others and the established consequences of this school. Honor is the goal that I seek to attain.**

**GRADING STRUCTURE FOR THIS COURSE:**

I grade on a total points basis. Your grade at any time is the total number of points you have accumulated, divided by the total number of points available at that time in the semester. Generally each test or project counts either 100 points or the actual number of possible points, and each quiz or homework assignment counts 25 points or the actual number of points possible. Grades are cumulative throughout the semester. **I do not open the grade program during classes. You must refer to NetClassroom outside of class if you want a printout of your grades.**

**HELP SESSION:**

I will be in the classroom on Tuesdays from 3:15-3:45 PM if you need to meet with me. If the need arises, you may request another time. I’ll try to work with your schedule. ...For quick questions, stop by any morning or afternoon.



*Please sign and have your parents sign, indicating that you have read this syllabus and understand the expectations for this class. Return on the portion below the dotted line. Keep the syllabus in your binder at all times. This information is due tomorrow. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.*

Your Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parents’ Names \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Parent Email Address (es) \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Parents, the best way to contact me is by email. I check my messages throughout the day and usually at least once during the evening. I will **always** do my best to respond promptly.