



Elements of Literature Syllabus 2017-2018

Froebel Bilingual School
Mr. Daniel Cortes, Teacher

Office Hour by Appointment Only

I. Course Description & Prerequisites

Elements of Literature (Second course) has no prerequisite. Students enrolled in this course have demonstrated proficiency in applying basic literary concepts and skills. Goals and objectives are aligned with school curriculum standards for English/Language Arts for eighth-grade. Course activities are designed to help students improve their skills in reading, writing, communication, critical thinking, and research. Students are expected to read at least one work of fiction of their choice during each quarter and several major works of literature during the course. They will complete a variety of assignments, including essays, a creative or writing project, four book reports, creative pieces, critical analyses of literature, and a short film project. Mastery of grammar is expected and will be approached obliquely in context of the student's work.

II. Text & Materials

Elements of Literature (Second Course), Holt, Rhinehart, Winston; will be utilized to help students meet the goals outlined for this course in addition to some supplementary materials.

Other: Additional selections (autobiography and biography) assigned for literature circles; selected short stories, poetry, drama, and non-fiction pieces; selected videos and audios as appropriate; and handouts.

Materials/Supplies: Please refer to the 2014-2015 School Year Eighth Grade Supply List.

III. Semestral Point/ Weight Layout

<u>Instrument</u> <u>weight</u>	<u>points</u>	
• TESTS (4) x 75 pts. ea. =	300 pts.	43%
• BOOK REPORTS (2) x 100 pts. ea. =	200 pts.	29%
• DAILYWORK 100 pts. ea. =	100 pts.	14%
• PROJECT (1) x 100 pts. ea. =	100 pts.	14%
<u>SEMESTER TOTAL PTS. =</u>	<u>700 pts.</u>	<u>100%</u>

V. Assessment

Students are expected to arrive on time to classes and participate in all daily activities. Grades for class assignments will be recorded regularly. Completion of homework, daily as well as long-term writing assignments, also is expected and has weight in semestral grading. This will represent 14% of the total course grade.

All exams will have a 75-point value and therefore be the assessment with the highest weight. End-of-semester examinations will be partial and not final. Although, a post test will be given at the end of the year, it will have no weight since its purpose is purely diagnostic.

At least two major creative projects will be assigned each semester. A rubric for grading, with all or relevant criteria will be used. The student's understanding of literary concepts will be an essential part of the assessment. Students will prepare at least one multimedia presentation, four book reports, and participate in at least one interdisciplinary project during the school year.

V. Class Procedures & Discipline Policy

Procedures and policies concerning late assignments and make-up work:

Unexcused late work (including homework as well as major assignments) will not be accepted in this class.

In the case of an excused absence, the student must turn in assignments within two days of the absence and, also within the two-day period, must make up tests that were administered during the absence. (The student should make arrangements with the teacher.) If an assignment was given before the absence, the student is expected to send the work or turn it in on the day of his or her return to school with a written excuse.

If the student does not have access to a computer or typewriter at home, the parent should notify the teacher at the beginning of the school year so there is time to explore possible options.

The teacher will not excuse work that is late due to printer problems (no ink cartridge, etc.). The student must also bring, on or before the assignment due date, a parent note which describes the nature/circumstances of the problem.

When major technology problems occur unexpectedly (a computer crash, for example), the student may handwrite the composition neatly in black ink on paper. The student must submit a parent note of explanation along with the handwritten work. In the case of a major technology problem the evening before the due date for an assignment or project, the student may be granted a brief extension. The student must bring a parent note of explanation on or before the date the assignment is due.

Discipline Policies:

The teacher will try to work with each student in areas that need improvement. If problems persist, the teacher will notify the student's parent(s). If misbehavior continues, the teacher will submit a referral to the social worker/administration for action. Students who create severe disturbances in class will be removed immediately. Further, the teacher will support all school policies outlined in the Student Handbook and will follow the Discipline Plan required by school administration. Classroom rules include:

- Be on time. (The teacher will follow school policy.) If you are late for any reason, you must furnish a late pass from the school office, even if you have a pass from another teacher.
- Bring appropriate materials.
- Have completed homework in class. (Students will not be able to return to their lockers during class.)
- Follow procedures for unexcused absences. (See student handbook.)
- Limit requests for restroom visits to extreme emergencies.

- Refrain from speaking out in class and calling out responses. You must raise your hand.
- Leave gum and candy out of the classroom.
- Refrain from leaving seat without permission.
- Refrain from socializing and behaving in a disruptive manner.
- Cell phones are prohibited.
- Sit up during class. (It helps concentration.)
- Read and abide by rules and procedures outlined in the student regulation.
- Respect others' right to learn.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL PACING OVERVIEW

FIRST QUARTER

Literature Focus: Short Stories and Interviews, from Elements of Literature text

Literary Theory, Genres, Plot, Setting, Characters, Organization of Ideas

Writing Workshops

SECOND QUARTER

Literature Focus: Short Stories and Essays, from Elements of Literature text

Theme, Style, Voice, Works of Ray Bradbury, Summarizing

Writing Workshops

Creative or Writing project

THIRD QUARTER

Literature Focus: Nonfiction, from Elements of Literature text

Forms of Nonfiction, Historical Fiction, Proposition & Support, Documents and its forms

Writing Workshops

Short film project

FOURTH QUARTER

Literature Focus: Poetry and Drama, from Elements of Literature text

Elements and Forms of poetry, Dramatic elements, The Holocaust and Anne Frank, Conflict

Writing Workshops

*****Subject to change*****