Welcome to 10th grade ELA! I’m really looking forward to this school year with you! Please read on to discover ways we can help each other be successful, and have some fun this year!

**Requirements**

In order to achieve success in this class, it is imperative that you participate in class! Participation includes three components: attendance (you are physically in class, on time), Preparedness (homework and readings are fully and carefully completed), and contribution (contributing thoughts and opinions in class).

**Required Materials**

You will need to bring an assignment pad or calendar, a binder, a notebook, writing utensil and any text with which we are working, to class daily.

**Grading**

Grading will be on a points system. Everything will be graded and will count toward your final average. More complex/time-consuming activities will count for more points.

**Late Policy**

Work is due on the dates assigned. Work will be accepted up to two days late, at a penalty of 25% per day late. After two days work **will not be accepted**. If you are absent, the work due the day you were out is due the day you return. It is your responsibility to hand this work in, not my responsibility to ask for it. Per school policy, you have one day for each day out to make up work. If you are out on Monday and return on Tuesday, work assigned Monday is due on Thursday. Again, it is YOUR responsibility to ask for assignments and to hand them in on time. You are expected to have work assigned ahead of time ready despite absences, for example if a test has been scheduled Thursday for two weeks, and you are absent on Wednesday, you are responsible to take the test on Thursday. The second marking period, I will only take late work one day late, at a penalty of 25%. The third marking period, I will not take work any later than the end of the school day in which the work was assigned. For example, if something is due on Monday and you do not have it ready at the beginning of class, I will only accept it up to the end of 9th period on Monday. If you try to turn it in on Tuesday, I will not accept it. By the fourth marking period, I will not accept ANY late work! If it is not turned in on time at the beginning of class, you do not receive credit! If you have any questions on this policy, please ask. There will be no exceptions.

**Classroom Procedures**

The easiest way for you to succeed in this classroom, as well as many avenues of life, will be to follow a uniform set of procedures.  Classroom procedures will let you know exactly how you should act and work in this classroom.  Your success and our classroom culture will depend on us following procedures.

1. After the Bell: You should be in your seat and ready to begin class.

2. Personal Project: You should have materials to work on your Personal Project with you every day. We may have days where I will allow time to work on your personal project, for example, if you finish a test or quiz early.

3. Dismissal: I dismiss you, not the bell.  When the bell rings you should begin to collect your belongings, not before then.

4. Independent Class work: When working in class you are expected to work quietly and on your own.  The classroom is a safe place to work and concentrate.

5. Answering Questions: Any time you are called on in class you will be expected to raise your hand in order to be acknowledged.  All answers should be given in complete sentences.

6. Speakers: At this point in your high school career, you should be well versed to this procedure. While I and/or your peers are speaking, you should always be courteous and respectful. Do not speak over another student or myself. You should be giving the same respect that you would expect.

7.  Help: If you ever need help, please ask! I am always willing to make time to answer questions in or out of class. If you need help that requires extra attention, please come see me to schedule a meeting time. I have “office hours” on Tuesday and Thursday after school, so you can always plan to stay on those days to come see me.

9. Restroom/Drink: There is ample time between classes to go to your locker, or get a drink, but I do understand that there may not be quite enough time to use the restroom. If you come into class before the bell and ask to go I will allow you to use the restroom. Otherwise, leaving class to use the restroom, go to your locker, or go to get a drink will be limited per semester to 5. You will be required to take the pass from the wall and go and return in a timely manner.

***Syllabus***

***What we will do*** – A list of the Units in which we will be covering this year. Additional information for each of these

***Novels/Graphic Novels***

* Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer
* Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
* Maus by Art Spiegelman

***Short Stories/Essays/Plays***

* *Antigone* by Sophocles
* Short Story Unit – Packet of Short stories including “Lather and Nothing Else” and “The Sniper”
* “This I believe” – A compilation of essays that include “Be Cool to the Pizza Delivery Dude”
* *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare

***Projects/Research/Writing assignments***

* Personal Project
* Evidence Based Claims
* Persuasive Essay

***Optional Texts/Projects***

* Night by Elie Wiesel

**Grading Policy**

**Tests**:

Tests are given at the end of each major unit of study, including novels, grammar, and vocabulary units. It is your responsibility to make up any exams, quizzes, essays, or presentations that are required of you.

**Tests are scheduled so that you have sufficient time to prepare for them.**

**Quizzes**:

Quizzes are most often given on class notes, vocabulary, homework assignments, grammar and literary terms. Unlike tests, quizzes are sometimes unannounced.

**Homework**:

It is your responsibility to complete all homework assignments. **Keeping up with class assignments and homework during your absence is one way of avoiding falling too far behind in your schoolwork.**

**Preparation / Class Participation**:

Your preparation and participation grade will be based on contributions to class discussion and to small group work as well as daily preparedness in class. Talking and distracting others will negatively affect this grade. **Please note that you should have your organized English binder, pens, pencils, and a highlighter with you every day.**

***How will Grades be earned?***

This year, your grades will be determined by the following:

* Essays and Tests – 60%
* Quizzes and Projects – 20%
* Homework and Participation/Effort – 20%

Extra help is given Tuesday and Thursday from after school until 3:30.

**First Homework Assignment**

Your first homework assignment is to return the signed portion of this signature sheet to Ms. Robbins on Tuesday September 9, 2014. Please sign and return the portion below once you have read the above Syllabus!

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Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Anything else you would like me to know? :

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