**Ms. Graham Helton – CP English I/English I**

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Welcome to Norman North High School! High school is different from middle school, and offers more interesting and varied experiences, but along with the greater freedom you have in high school comes greater personal ***responsibility*.** As high school students, you will be expected to function at a higher academic as well as social level. Now is the time to develop the study skills and habits as well as ability to work with other people that will make you successful in the adult world, whether that includes college, technical training, or the workforce.

Success in English I will be attained by ***attending*** and ***participating*.** If you miss a lot of class time, your work will suffer from lack of exposure to the material presented. If you choose to not participate, your grade will suffer. Participation will include focusing on the material being presented, working individually and collectively to complete assignments, and being a productive member of our classroom.

**Works Covered/Objectives**

Norman Public Schools recognize that students must be able to read and comprehend increasingly complex informational and literary text in order to meet the rigorous demands of college and future workforce. They must read widely and deeply from among a broad range of high-quality, challenging text and develop the skill to read these texts independently and proficiently. Literature provides rich and timeless insights into universal themes, dilemmas and social realities of the world representing complex stories in which the thoughts and actions of human beings are revealed. Life shapes literature and literature shapes life. In our attempt to provide rich and varied reading experiences for all students, some selections are focused toward mature readers. If parents feel the content of a text assigned is not appropriate for their child, please consult your child's teachers for an alternative assigned reading. We encourage parents to preview all required texts.

We will cover a variety of traditional works of literature as well as regular non-fiction reading prompts. Among the works of literature that may be taught in the 9th grade are *The Odyssey, Fahrenheit 451, Call of the Wild, Romeo and Juliet, Animal Farm,* and *The Book Thief,* along with related non-fiction materials, poetry, and short stories. Through these works we will explore different literary techniques and styles, as well as strive to strengthen our ability to identify what the author is attempting to communicate, and then determine if/how it applies to our own lives and the larger world.

**Classroom Rules**

· Be respectful to your classmates and the teacher.

· Be on time! This is a form of respect towards your classmates and your teacher.

· Follow ALL school rules. These are available in your student handbook.

· ID’s must be worn at all times, period, no exceptions; students who choose to not wear their ID’s will lose certain privileges.

· No cell phones, mp3 players, walkmans, or other personal media players will be permitted in the classroom **unless otherwise specified**. (Occasionally we will use smartphones for research purposes.) If you have your phone with you, make sure it is turned OFF and put away. Any student choosing to not meet this requirement will lose their electronic devise; it will be taken to the office, and your parents will have to pick it up.

· During class discussions, don’t interrupt the person speaking.

· Inappropriate language will NOT be tolerated in the classroom.

· Bring to class **ALL MATERIALS**, including books we are reading, paper, and pencils. **This is your responsibility!**  No exceptions.

· No food or open containers in class.

**Cheating**

Don’t do it! This includes copying from another student’s test or paper, as well as plagiarism. When using a source in a writing project, always credit the source and/or cite it. If you cheat, you will receive a zero for the assignment.  And I WILL catch you...

**Grading Policy**

We will do a variety of activities that will carry grades. This includes daily activities, essays, projects, group work, tests, and other assignments, as well as class participation.

Your grade will be determined on a weighted grading system. Some assignments, such as daily assignments and essays, which will constitute a majority of your work, will carry fewer possible points, and others, like projects and tests, will carry more points because of the amount of work involved. I will do a grade check periodically each quarter, and parents and students will have access through Infinite Campus to grades.

90-100 = A Daily Assignments: 20%

80-89 = B Quizzes: 20%

70-79 = C Tests: 20%

60-69 = D Writing Assignments/Projects: 20%

59 and below = F Final Exam: 20%

**Tardy Policy**

The policy on tardies is strict, and the consequences are not pleasant. Don’t be tardy! Please see student handbook.

**Late Work**

You are expected to turn in your work when it is due. Things do happen occasionally that affect your ability to turn in your work. There will be a clearly stated due date on every assignment.  Once an assignment is late, your maximum grade for that assignment becomes a 50%, and there will be a point at which late work will no longer be accepted (one week after the due date).  If a student misses work because of an excused absence, you will be given three days from the date of your return to school to complete the work and receive a grade with no penalty. If you suffer an extended absence, the policy in the student handbook will be used to determine the amount of time a student will have to complete missed work.

**Overtime**

The overtime period is from 8:40-9:00 A.M. each day. This is the time you come to see me to get work you’ve missed, ask about your grade, or seek assistance on assignments. I will be in my classroom at this time, and I encourage you to come by if you need help.

**Hall Passes**

Try to take care of any needs such as water, restroom, or locker before class. If you must go to the restroom during class, there will be one permanent pass available. All other passes will be written strictly on an **emergency** basis.

**Materials**

Please purchase a notebook or a tabbed binder with paper for class notes, a two-pocket folder, pencils and/or pens, and a flash drive. **In your binder or notebook, you will need room for five sections: Literary Terms, Grammar, Writing, Readings and Vocabulary**, **and Journal.** We will use different colored pens and highlighters in annotating articles and assignments. These are REQUIRED materials! Do not come to class without them. I will have NO supplies for your use! (It would also be very helpful if each student could bring a box of Kleenex and a container of Clorox wipes for the classroom. It is amazing how fast tissues run out!)

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Please sign and return the next page for your first daily assignment grade! 🡪

To the parents of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

It is the policy of the Norman Public Schools to provide structures for students to learn and practice the writing process with academic honesty and integrity. We are providing a service to our high school students called Turn It In (http://www.turnitin.com), a website that helps our instructors manage written assignments, build a learning community, and reinforce 21st century skills and knowledge. This service also cross-references student work with a large database of written material to check for originality. If plagiarism is suspected, teachers will conference with students and determine a course of action on a case by case basis.

*I have read the syllabus, and agree to its contents.*

(Parents please sign and have your child return back to class.)

Parent/guardian signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian printed name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian preferred email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian preferred phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_