

Saint Francis Preparatory School  
English 10: British Literature

Teacher: Mr. DioGuardi

Email: ddioguardi@sfponline.org (Messages only, please; I will not accept unsolicited assignments.)

Office: N-102 (English Office) / E-209 (Writing Center; B-Period only)

## I. Introduction

"Fantasy is escapist, and that is its glory. ...If we value the freedom of mind and soul, and if we're partisans of liberty, then it's our plain duty to escape and to take as many people with us as we can!"  
–J.R.R. Tolkien

"I like nonsense, it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living, it's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of the telescope....And that enables you to laugh at life's realities."  
–Theodore Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss

"No, no! The adventures first...explanations take such a dreadful time."  
–Gryphon, from Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Welcome to sophomore year, a world as complicated and filled with adventure as any of the exciting tales you will read! While in freshman year you received an introductory survey of literary genres, types, and terms, this year will begin a more analytical approach to life and literature. In our time together, you will learn how to identify and connect themes, look at stories and ideas in various contexts (historical, scientific, etc.), recognize how they emerged from their environment, and then how to combine it all in a literary essay. We will discuss an array of concepts, but a specific theme we will look at is that of the journey—that is, how something or someone gets from one place to another—and what role storytelling plays in such a transformation.

## II. Required Reading

1. All students must purchase the following literary works:

- *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien<sup>1</sup>
- *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare<sup>2</sup>
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley<sup>3</sup>
- *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro

---

<sup>1</sup> You should have already purchased and read this as your summer reading, but we will discuss it in class.

<sup>2</sup> This appears in full in your textbook, if you wish not to purchase a copy. Most students, however, choose to buy an annotated edition, such as those published by Oxford or Folger. I strongly recommend that you do not use No Fear Shakespeare.

<sup>3</sup> Be careful not to buy *Brave New World Revisited*, which is an extended essay about the novel but not the novel itself.

2. In addition to the above works of literature, students must also purchase the following:
  - Sadlier-Oxford's *Vocabulary Workshop: Level E*
  - Barron's *SAT Critical Reading Workbook, 15<sup>th</sup> edition*<sup>4</sup>
3. Finally, all students will receive a textbook, *Adventures in English Literature*, which is the property of the school and must be kept in excellent condition throughout the school year. Any student who damages or loses his or her textbook, will pay a sizeable fee and may have his or her report card withheld.
4. Students will also be required to read assorted other short texts (non-fiction articles affiliated with the Common Core standards, poems, etc.) that I will distribute or post.

### III. Daily Requirements and Course Procedure

1. In addition to the appropriate text(s), each day students must be prepared with:
    - A spiral notebook (with perforated edging for clean tear-off, please)
    - Two folders (one for returned work; the other for distributed materials)
    - At least two pens (blue or black ink only) **and** a pencil (certain quizzes will be Scantron)
    - A positive attitude
    - Interesting thoughts, observations, and questions
- \*\* Students will lose five points from their quarterly class participation grade for each day they are unprepared. \*\***
2. Lateness
    - a. Each day I will close the door at the bell. If, at this time, a student is not in his or her seat and ready to go, he or she will be recorded as absent. Any student who enters the room after the bell is expected to do so with consideration for the class already in session (that is, enter quietly and politely) and will be marked as late. If a student is late because he or she was meeting with a member of the school's faculty, staff, or administration, he or she must have a signed note or time stamped pass from the school official.
    - b. Excessive undocumented lateness will have adverse consequences:
      - Any student who is late more than three times will be reported to the dean, and will lose ten points from his or her quarterly class participation grade for each lateness beyond the third.
    - c. Any student who misses a quiz due to an excused lateness may be either excused from the quiz or take a make-up. This will be at my discretion. Any student who misses a quiz due to an unexcused lateness will receive a zero for that quiz and may not make it up.

---

<sup>4</sup> Each is available in the school bookstore.

3. Absence
  - a. All absence from class must be documented. Students should acquire the appropriate pass and show it to me immediately. Any undocumented absence will be treated as a cut, and the student will be reported to the dean.
  - b. If a student misses an exam or quiz due to an excused absence, he or she may take a make up in the make-up room, which operates every Wednesday, in E206, from 2:50-4 PM. If a student has an after-school activity and cannot take the make-up during this time, he or she must make other accommodations with me. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for the make-up exam. If a student does not take the make-up exam within the first week of returning to school, he or she will receive a zero for that exam.
  - c. Any student who misses an exam due to an unexcused absence will receive a zero for that exam, may not take a make-up, and will be reported to the dean for cutting class.
  - d. All work due on the day a student is absent must be submitted on the day the student returns to school. If the assignment due is digital, then that assignment is due as normal regardless of whether or not the student is in class that day.
  - e. Students should communicate with me regarding any planned (ie, retreat) or prolonged (ie, extreme illness or emergency) absence.
  - f. In the event of a prolonged absence from school, the student may receive a failing grade for the quarter or receive a grade of AB, depending on the length and nature of the absence.
4. All students must familiarize themselves with and follow the Honor Code (found on p.13 of the Agenda Book). Violation of it is a serious offense, and so this issue will be discussed in further detail at a later date. All work and thoughts must be the student's own; always act honorably.

#### **IV. The Work**

The student's final grade will be a total point accumulation of all work in the areas listed below:

1. Written Critical Literary Response:
  - a. Long form: Essays, both in-class and at-home.
    - i. Most at-home essays will be part of a process of outlining, drafting, and revising.
    - ii. In-class essays will be a timed "one-shot" assessment. Prompts will not be given out beforehand.
      - a. Students may, but not always, have the opportunity to revise an in-class essay.
  - b. Short form: Mostly in the form of posts and comments to an internet discussion forum or blog.<sup>5</sup>

**\*\*All written work must be properly formatted, neat, and professional. \*\***

---

<sup>5</sup> I will discuss this at much greater length.

2. Grammar, Writing Workshops, Literary Terms, and Vocabulary:
  - a. Each Day Six, students will take a 20-point vocabulary quiz on the corresponding unit in *Vocabulary Workshop* (so, the first Day Six of the year will be on Unit One and so on from there). Students are expected to study each cycle's unit and prepare for the quiz on their own.
  - b. At the completion of every five units, students will complete a creative project on the words from those units.
  - c. Students will also work on vocabulary from the texts we read, as well as etymology, and literary terms.
  - d. In addition to vocabulary, students will work on proper writing technique and grammar.
3. Reading Comprehension Exams and Quizzes:
  - a. Students can expect a brief reading quiz after each reading assignment. They will not all be announced beforehand.
  - b. Longer exams on full works of literature will be announced at least a week beforehand.
4. Media-based Projects
  - a. There will be a number of projects, large and small, assigned over the course of the year.
5. Class Participation
  - a. This is an all-encompassing grade that covers the student's involvement in the course.
  - b. Students should be active and engaged in all material, discussion, and activities.
  - c. Students should be on time and prepared for class.
  - d. Students should show respect towards their peers, the work, the school, themselves, and myself.
  - e. "'E' For Effort"

**\*\*I enjoy lively and productive discussion—indeed I expect it. Ask questions, make observations; interpret; suggest. My classes are free of judgment, always. Therefore I expect students to have an open mind, and to thoughtfully and respectfully participate each day.\*\***

## **V. Technology**

1. All students must register for Turnitin. A copy of all at-home written assignments must be submitted to Turnitin.
2. All students must also register for Edmodo, for regular discussion outside of class.<sup>6</sup> Other blogs and forums will be announced.
3. No student may use a cell phone, iPad, Kindle (or any e-reader), iPod, or any other electronic device without my approval. All devices must be kept on silent mode at all times. I reserve the right to confiscate any device.
4. Students must daily check the course's Notes page, found on the SFP website (under "Departments"). This (and/or Edmodo) will be updated regularly with information that may not have been discussed in class. It is the student's responsibility to check this regularly.
5. All students must have access to a computer and the Internet.
6. All grades will be posted on PowerSchool for parents to check.

---

<sup>6</sup> The purpose of each will be discussed further. Each requires a password, that I will distribute, specifically designed for our class.