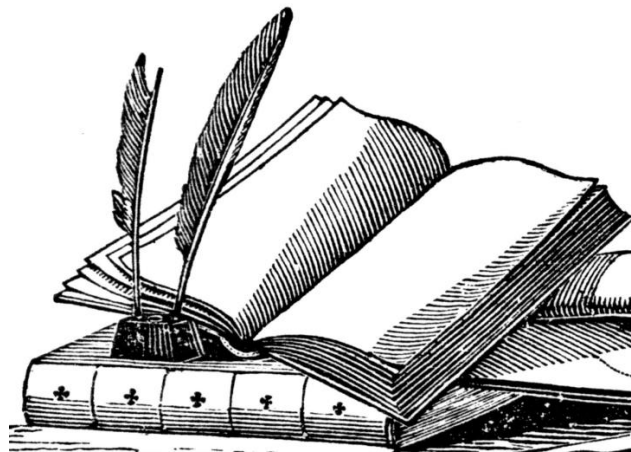


**Ms. Wyatt**

**English 9**



**Course Information**

**2016-2017**

**Browerville High School**

**Room B-129**

### **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Description:**

Students will learn how to read and analyze pieces of work critically. There will also be several major papers done in the class over the readings and based on other prompts. This class is focused on the writing standard in which emphasis is put on larger writing assignments and writing style. We will be looking at mythology, *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding and end on a Multi-Cultural Author's Study. Students will be asked to show an understanding of the works through their own writing. We will work carefully together as a class to begin the process of writing using critical thinking skills. We will also be doing comprehension exercises to help better prepare students for future testing.

### **Objectives:**

Students will be able to write the following types of papers:

\*Compare and contrast, persuasive and expository essay;

\*Character analysis;

\*Critical analysis;

\*Annotated bibliography with a Powerpoint presentation (two - one tying to history and the other tying to language arts).

Students will write journal reflections to prepare for critical thinking and comprehension skills.

Students will be able to show an understanding of the eight basic parts of speech as well as tenses and plurals, definite and indefinite pronouns, modifiers, etc.

Students will use technology to present a research topic.

Students will complete final projects on readings to show an understanding of the novel.

\*We will also be looking at the following readings: poems, short stories and dramas.

### **The following is a proposed schedule for the order of works:**

**Mythology Unit:** Various myths will be discussed and read, with a "Hero's Journey" narrative essay will as the culmination of this unit.

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck: This will be the first novella we will be reading as a class. Various writing and reading projects will be given throughout this study of the Great Depression. One assignment will be to analyze a picture of the Great Depression and write about the images which will be turned into a larger piece of writing.

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare: This unit will center on drama – its elements, language, and the story told. Students will be involved in dramatic readings, work on translations, and complete a final project centered on a scene in the play.

*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding and *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell: Students will analyze dystopian/utopian literature and even create their own dystopian/utopian society. This unit is a paired novel unit to add enrichment to the class and meet the needs of all students.

### **Additional Reading:**

Students must keep an independent reading book at all times. They will be keeping track of their reading on a log. Many students seem to be picking up the same books. Please be sure and ask your child about his or her independent reading books.

### **Multicultural Authors Study:**

This unit involves reading various short stories, novels, and/or poetry from different cultures. Students will end the unit with a presentation on an author and his or her works.

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**Writing Style/Grammar/ Vocabulary/ Author's Style:**

We will be doing several exercises to help prepare students for testing. They will be practicing through assigned writing and writing prompts, as well as reading and discussing ideas and language in the various units.

**What to expect:**

Much of the reading will be independent. I will be giving comprehension quizzes on a regular basis. There will also be a large amount of writing, both formal and informal. They will be doing weekly reflections on different stories, novels, poems, etc. By now, students should be responsible for keeping track of homework and assignments. I will hold them accountable to be organized and responsible each day. It is important that assignments are turned in when they are due. Please check in with your child and make sure he or she child is taking responsibility for him/herself in regard to academic work.

## Classroom Rules and Expectations

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**Attendance**

Attendance is extremely important. I expect you to attend class every day and to be on time. If you have an excused absence, you will be given the amount of days you were absent to make up any missed work. It is your responsibility to obtain any missed work and to finish it in the time allotted. Failure to report to class due to personal choice will result in lost credit. Skipping **any** assessment is especially dangerous and can result in quarter or course failure.

**Behavior**

Appropriate behavior is expected at all times. Respect must be shared between the teacher and students. Violations will result in parent contact and referral to your administrator. You are responsible for yourself.

**Preparedness**

Outside of coming to class ONTIME, I expect you to come ready to learn. This involves coming to class with all the necessary materials BEFORE the bell rings. You will need your notebook and present novel DAILY. When you enter the classroom, the warm up activity is your first responsibility: 10 minutes of independent reading.

**Late Work**

Final submissions turned in late are worth half credit for small assignments and lose points daily for major assignments.

**Submissions**

All final writing pieces must be typed (10 or 12 point Times New Roman and double spaced). Students have Chromebooks and the school has many computers available if this is a problem at home.

**Cheating**

Browerville High School does not tolerate cheating or plagiarism of any kind. If this behavior is suspected or observed, immediate administrative action will be necessary and a ZERO is given on the assignment.

**Electronic Devices**

Cell phones, iPods, and the like are only allowed in the safe zone, where it is to be left alone unless given permission in order for classroom/instructional use only. Violation of this policy will result in confiscation. Emergencies or appointments should be handled through the attendance office.

# Grading Policy

Your grade will be derived from a combination of the following:

- **Tests:**  
Aside from unit exams, test grades will take the form of in-class and out-of-class essays, as well as various projects throughout the year.
- **Quizzes:**  
Quizzes will often be comprised of shorter length essays or in-class exams.
- **Homework:**  
Given on most nights, homework is expected to be completed and handed in the following day. Timeliness is of utmost importance as late homework will not be accepted.
- **Participation:**  
Students are expected to arrive in class prepared and ready for rigorous discussion. As such, completion of homework the night prior is of the utmost importance.

## Grading Scale

<b>A+</b>	<b>+100%</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>77 – 79</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>93 -99</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>73 – 76</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>90 – 92</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>70 – 72</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>87 – 89</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>67 – 69</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>83 – 86</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>63 – 66</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>80 – 82</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>60 – 62</b>
		<b>F</b>	<b>59 or lower</b>

# For Parents/Guardians

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Please take a few minutes to go over this packet with your child. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me via email at [cwyatt@browerville.k12.mn.us](mailto:cwyatt@browerville.k12.mn.us). So I know that you have seen this packet, please sign your name on the lines below and have your child return this segment of the packet to me. Thank you for your time and I am looking forward to a productive school year!

Sincerely,

Cheryl A. Wyatt

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents:

If there is anything you feel I should know about your child, please take a few moments to write it down in the space below.

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