

# Literature Syllabus

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## Objectives

Students will...

- cultivate the moral imagination by “analyzing how spiritual knowledge and enduring truths are represented and communicated through literature” (Newman, et al., Catholic Curriculum).
- use reading strategies to ensure greater comprehension of a variety of texts
- analyze literature for deeper appreciation and understanding of each work
- speak and write clearly to communicate ideas
- read aloud with clarity and expression

## Curriculum

### **6th Grade**

Together we will read and discuss a selection of literature, including novels, short stories, a play, and non-fiction. In addition, students read one book of their choice each quarter, and take an AR Test on that book. In 6th grade, I emphasize reading strategies, story elements, historical fiction, an introduction to figurative language, and mythology, as well as an examination of the way in which characters can change for the better as they encounter challenges and grow in virtue, allowing for redemption.

#### Class Text each Quarter:

1 <i>Esperanza Rising</i> by Pam Munoz Ryan	978-0439120425
2 <i>A Christmas Carol</i> (adapted for Readers Theater), by Charles Dickens	Script provided
2 <i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens (Honors only)	978-1952433030
3 <i>The Magician's Nephew</i> by C.S. Lewis	978-0064405058
4 <i>D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths</i> by Ingri and Edgar d'Aulaire	978-0440406945
4 <i>The Wanderings of Odysseus</i> by Rosemary Sutcliff (Honors only)	978-0553494822

### **7th Grade**

Together we will read and discuss a selection of literature, including a novel, poetry, a play, short stories, and non-fiction. In addition, students read one book of their choice each quarter, and take an AR Test on that book. In 7th grade, I emphasize mastering elements of fiction, understanding and reciting poetry, an introduction to Shakespeare, extrapolating themes and applying those themes within a Christian framework of morality and meaning.

#### Class Text each Quarter:

1 <i>The Winged Watchman</i> by Hilda van Stockum	978-1883937072
2 Poetry Unit	Poetry Book (teacher collection)
3 <i>Shakespeare for Young People: Julius Caesar</i> , ed. by Davidson	978-0767508292
4 Short Stories and Fables	Short Story Book (teacher collection)

## ***8th Grade***

Together we will read and discuss a selection of literature, including poetry, novels, short stories, a play, and non-fiction. In addition, students read one book of their choice each quarter, and take an AR Test on that book. In 8th grade I emphasize the development of language, interpreting poetry, reading and analyzing two classic novels with greater independence, and reading and reciting Shakespeare. In addition, through comparative analysis, students will be able to identify both the sinfulness and virtue in characters, leading to conclusions about what it means to live a good and moral life, blessed by God.

### **Class Text each Quarter:**

1 <i>Beowulf the Warrior</i> , retold by Ian Serrailier	978-1883937034
2 <i>The Call of the Wild</i> by Jack London	978-1734704105
3 Honors: <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> by William Shakespeare	978-0743482752
Grade Level: <i>No Fear Shakespeare - Much Ado About Nothing</i>	978-1411401013
4 <i>The Outsiders</i> by S.E. Hinton	978-0143039853

## **Grading Scale**

Students are expected to read outside of class nearly every day. Final grades each quarter are calculated by dividing the number of points earned by the total number of points possible. Homework consists of: reading the assigned chapters by the deadline, memorizing literary terms, and reviewing the Study Guide questions prior to a quiz. These Study Guide questions are completed and discussed in class. Students will earn points in the following categories: completed classwork, reading quizzes, end of book tests, IXL completion (reading strategy practice), and projects.

## **Supplies**

Students are expected to come to class prepared with all required materials and are responsible to care for all of the books issued to them. Lost or damaged books will incur a charge for replacement.

- White 3 ring binder with 4 dividers and notebook paper
- Provided TCS Planner
- Issued Class Literature Text and Independent Novel
- Black or blue pen, a red pen, a pencil

## **Communication**

### ***Google Classroom***

Google Classroom is our primary communication tool. Teachers create an online classroom and invite students and parents to the class. While students use their planners daily to record homework assignments, teachers also post homework and test dates on their Google Classrooms. This organizational tool allows students and parents to see all assignments and deadlines in one place. Some teachers will also have students turn in online assignments through Google Classroom.

***E-mail***

The most effective method of communication between teacher and parents is e-mail. Parents should expect to receive a reply from the teacher within 24 hours. Students may confer directly with the teacher to resolve any questions or concerns. If there is not an opportunity in class, students may use their school-issued email account to communicate with their teachers.

***Powerschool***

Parents and students are responsible for checking PowerSchool on a regular basis to monitor progress. Teachers will enter grades promptly, or at minimum will enter a checkmark ✓, to indicate that the assignment has been collected. A grade of zero with an M for “Missing” will alert parents that the assignment was not turned in. Please email the teacher with any concerns about missing work or grades. With good communication, parents and teachers are able to work together to promote student progress. Questions regarding access to PowerSchool should be directed to the front office.