

High School English Grades - 9th-12* (19th Century Literature and Composition)

This comprehensive college prep high school English course will study two specific aspects of 19th century literature, an era of great transition in literature. The first semester will study the changing style and content of 19th century literature from Great Britain; the second semester will study Gothic literature, both British and American. In each semester we will read at least three samples of the genre. We will study the historical and cultural settings in which they were written, the purposes for which they were written, and the lives of the 19th century authors. The composition portion will focus heavily on the seven primary essay types along with some creative writing. Each week at home the student will read, do occasional worksheets and/or study guide questions. In class students will take quizzes over the week's reading, take notes from lecture, and be given composition instruction, to be completed at home. There will be two tests per semester, one midterm and one final.

Course Objectives:

- * Introduce students to quality, classic, high school level literature
- * Learn the process for putting together structured analytical essays
- * Expand the skill of taking notes from lecture
- * Acquire various broadly applicable academic and organizational skills
- * Practice the essential life skills of following instructions and being responsible for one's own tasks
- * Prepare students for their next level of education

Required Books: Any edition, including ebook or audiobook, as long as it is in the original language and length (no abridged versions)

Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen)

Oliver Twist (Charles Dickens)

The Time Machine (H.G. Wells)

The Castle of Otranto (Horace Walpole)

Frankenstein (Mary Shelley)

The Yellow Wallpaper (Charlotte Perkins Gilman) - short story – **online**

The Lottery (Shirley Jackson) - short story – **online**

Assorted short stories and poems of Edgar Allen Poe (list available from teacher)

Teacher: Angela Griffin
808-4990 (cell)
angelainok@cox.net

*Excel guidelines require students to be 14 by August 1st to be considered in 9th grade

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is my student ready for High School English?

Your student is ready for the class if they can do the following:

- * read at a 10th to 11th grade level
- * understand and correctly use the basic rules of the written English language
- * read a prompt question, formulate a thesis from the prompt, and use supporting evidence and examples to back up said thesis
- * research for evidence and examples, being able to assess their usefulness
- * follow multi-step instructions
- * manage the weekly workload of a multi-task class

If they don't have the above skills yet, it doesn't mean they can't take the class. It means that the homeschool parent(s) will need to step in to work with the student at home during the week, both in academic skills and/or organizational skills. I can help parents facilitate that if requested.

2. Is High School English hard?

Assuming a student is at or above a 10th grade level in reading and writing skills, HS English is not hard; however, it is a lot of work. A student, possibly with parental help, needs to be able to

- * keep track of what is due and when it's due (a syllabus will be provided)
- * break down the week's assignment into manageable pieces
- * be responsible for turning in work completely, correctly, and on-time
- * keep an organized binder - there is a LOT of paper instructions, samples, examples, and notes given. Lack of organization is the #1 reason some students struggle in HS English.

3. Does my student need to do their work on their own?

Yes, but....

While I do not allow students to share the workload, answers, etc., I would encourage students to study together for exams when possible, and I believe it's essential for parents to step in and work with their student if they see that they have a hole in their academic knowledge or struggle to manage the workload. Looking at your student's graded work each week when they bring it home and regularly checking Gradebookwizard can help you assess how much help your student needs at home. And you can always ask me.