

## High School English grades 9-12\*

### American Literature and Composition

Tuition: \$45 per month (August – April)

This comprehensive high school English course will study American literature from the 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. We will study the historical and cultural settings in which the books were written, the purposes for which they were written, and the lives of the authors. Each week the student will read, answer study guide questions, and do occasional worksheets. The composition portion will focus heavily on the six primary essay types along with some creative writing. 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

#### Supply List:

- \* Three ring binder, 1 ½ to 2 inch thick
- \* One set of 6 tab dividers
- \* Loose leaf paper
- \* 1 ream of white copy paper (at home)

**Other requirements:** internet access, e-mail, word processing, library access, working printer

**Required Books:** Unless stated, any edition will do, including ebook, as long as it is the original language and length (**no abridged versions**). Teacher has some to loan, just ask.

*Uncle Tom's Cabin* (Harriett Beecher Stowe)  
*Huckleberry Finn* (Mark Twain)  
*The Call of the Wild* (Jack London)  
*Our Town* (Play) (Thornton Wilder) - Online  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* (Harper Lee)  
*The Hunger Games* (Suzanne Collins)  
Assorted poems of Dickinson, Whitman, Frost, & Longfellow (online)  
Assorted Short Stories – (online)

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\* Students are to be 14 by first class to be considered in 9<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> 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 that the student is at or above a 10<sup>th</sup> 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 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 their Gradebookwizard account can help you assess how much help your student needs at home. And you can always ask me.