

## Course Syllabus for Junior English (American Literature)

**Description:** Junior English will focus mainly on a study of the literature of the United States, from colonial times to modern. Vocabulary and spelling lists are tested bi-weekly. In addition to classroom reading, each student is expected to read and write a report on a book from the approved list each quarter. The second semester will include a short review of grammar and writing principles, followed by an in-depth look at the process and writing of an informative research paper.

### Goals:

Writing and thinking abilities will be developed through the process of organizing and forming a major paper.

Study of literature on a more advanced level is reinforced by focusing on our American culture, and how its philosophies affected style, content, and moral tone, with the goal of understanding man's thinking and developing discernment of literature and the values it teaches.

Vocabulary and spelling will broaden and hone language capabilities.

**Textbooks:** *Handbook of Grammar and Composition* (A Beka), *Adventures in American Literature* (Harcourt Brace), *The Scarlet Letter*

**Assignments:** Literature assignments will be checked daily by way of a 5-point quiz, given before any discussion has occurred. Testing will cover class discussion/notes.

Vocabulary/Spelling lists will be sent home for completion by Thursday, to be quizzed Friday (on a bi-weekly basis). After three lists have been completed, a review test will be given in place of the next scheduled quiz. Additional projects, including the different steps of the research paper, will be assigned within the unit, usually accompanied by a separate handout. Grammar review will be tested through homework exercises, quizzes, and a test.

**Units:**

LITERATURE UNIT ONE: Literary terms

Before beginning a more advanced study of literature, students are expected to know a basic glossary of commonly used literary devices.

LITERATURE UNIT TWO: Colonials

William Bradford

William Byrd

Edward Taylor

Anne Bradstreet

Jonathan Edwards

Benjamin Franklin

Thomas Paine

LITERATURE UNIT THREE: Romantics

Washington Irving

William Cullen Bryant

Edgar Allan Poe

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Henry David Thoreau

Walt Whitman

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Herman Melville

LITERATURE UNIT FOUR: *The Scarlet Letter*

Read Hawthorne's classic novel

Write an evaluative essay on its themes, conflicts, and characters

LITERATURE UNIT FIVE: Realists

Emily Dickinson

Sidney Lanier

Bret Harte

Stephen Crane

E. A. Robinson

Mark Twain

GRAMMAR/WRITING UNIT : The Research Paper

Grammar: review of punctuation, agreement, and pronoun reference, placement of modifiers, and basic sentence structure

Writing: step-by-step process of writing an informative paper, from bibliography cards, preliminary outline, note cards, and a rough draft to the final product

#### LITERATURE UNIT SIX: Moderns

Ernest Hemingway

Eudora Welty

Robert Frost

Carl Sandburg

e. e. cummings

William Carlos Williams

Marianne Moore

Ezra Pound

H. D.

John Crowe Ransom

W. H. Auden

Wallace Stevens

Theodore Roethke

#### LITERATURE UNIT SEVEN: Modern Drama

Read Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*

Perform an assigned scene from the play