Course Syllabus – 9th Grade Literature and Composition
Mrs. D. Hall, Room 108 (dhall@burke.k12.ga.us) and
Ms. C. Hillis (chillis@burke.k12.ga.us)
Tutorial Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:15 to 3:45 PM
BCHS 2015-2016

Materials:
- Textbook: Georgia Collections-9th Grade (class set)
- Close Reader- 9th Grade (individual- remains in class)
- Dictionary/Thesaurus (home usage)
- 3-ring binder with dividers and pockets
- College rule paper
- pens – blue or black ink*
- 1 pack of Highlighters
- Composition notebook
- Pencils
- Public library card
- Colored markers or pencils (home usage)
- 1 pack of 4 x 6 inches ruled index cards
- 1 pack of 3 x 5 inches ruled index cards
*please remember to replenish supplies upon depletion

Course Description:
This course is designed for students who are reading on or above the 9th grade level and who are knowledgeable of the fundamentals of literature and composition. Students should be capable of completing outside reading and writing assignments as expectations of this course. Emphasis will be placed on studying literature through a thematic lens, focusing on analysis and comparison. There will also be emphasis on understanding themes in literature, studying English grammar and usage, writing in various styles and from multiple perspectives, introducing research skills, and developing appropriate vocabulary skills. This course is broken up into four 9-week units, two of those focusing on literary texts and two focusing on informational texts.

Standards:
Reading and Vocabulary Standards: ELACC9-10RL1, ELACC9-10RL2, ELACC9-10RL3, ELACC9-10RL4, ELACC9-10RL5, ELACC9-10RL6, ELACC9-10RL7, ELACC9-10RL9, ELACC9-10RI1, ELACC9-10RI2, ELACC9-10RI3, ELACC9-10RI4, ELACC9-10RI5, ELACC9-10RI6, ELACC9-10RI7, ELACC9-10RI8, ELACC9-10RI9, ELACC9-10L4 (4a, 4b, 4c), ELACC9-10L5 (5a, 5b), ELACC9-10L6

Writing and Language Standards: ELACC9-10W1 (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e), ELACC9-10W2 (2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f), ELACC9-10W3 (3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e), ELACC9-10W4, ELACC9-10W5, ELACC9-10W7, ELACC9-10W8, ELACC9-10W9, ELACC9-10L1 (1a, 1b), ELACC9-10L2 (2a, 2b, 2c), ELACC9-10L3 (3a), ELACC9-10L6

Classroom Rules:
1. Come to class prepared to learn.
2. Sit in your assigned seat daily.
3. Pay attention, participate and ask questions.
4. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak.
5. Preserve a positive learning environment.
6. Put forth your best effort at all times
   *Allow Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Hillis to teach.

Consequences:

1. Warning
2. 10 minute Lunch Detention
3. Parental Contact
4. Referral to appropriate administrator (severe disruptions will receive automatic refer to the administrator)

Rewards:
Praises, Positive notes or calls home, whole-class free time, various other positive perks, and the joy of learning

Homework
Homework is an essential part of the learning process. Homework will be used regularly to enrich or reinforce topics covered in class and should satisfy at least one of the following objectives:

- To provide an opportunity that helps the student practice the basic skills of a subject.
- To give students practice and extension of concepts learned in class.
- To extend learning beyond the material covered in class.
- To develop effective study habits and time management skills.
- To help the student prepare for classroom work.
- To provide feedback to aid students in assessing progress.

Homework is collected the first five minutes of class. Late homework will not be accepted once collected as homework is graded for completion and returned to the student on the same day. If a student is absent on the day homework is distributed or collected, the student will receive a homework exemption. Students who are absent on the day homework is distributed will receive a copy of the homework, but will not be required to submit the homework as they have received a homework exemption.

Late Work
Students should try their best to submit class assignments on time. Due dates are provided to students in advance. If a student has to submit class work late, the student will have five class days from the original due date to submit the assignment to the late bin, located on the student resource shelf. The highest grade they will receive is a 70 if all parts of the assignment are correct. Students who fail to submit late class work assignments within five class days will be assigned a lunch intervention. A grade of zero will remain in the gradebook for students who fail to attend their lunch interventions to complete the assignments. If a student is absent from class on a due date for a class assignment, a student must submit the assignment upon his or her return to class, if he or she wishes to receive full credit.

Some assignments cannot be accepted late as they may be collected, graded and then returned to students in the same class period. Students will be provided with advance notice if assignments cannot be submitted late and be provided with ample time to complete the assignment(s). Students who fail to submit the assignment(s) by
If a student is absent on the day the assignment is collected, he or she will have to complete an alternate assignment.

**Making Up Assignments from an Absence**
If a student is absent from class during a quiz or a test, students will complete the assessment within 3 to 5 class days of the missed assessment. Students may either come after school during tutoring hours or may have to use class time to complete the missed assessment. In regards to missed class work, students should ask the teacher for the assignment(s) upon returning to class. Always ask the teacher for the missed work after class or after school. The student will have five class days from his or her return to class to complete and submit the assignment(s) for full credit. Failure to do so will result in a late grade (SEE LATE WORK POLICY SECTION)

**Extra Credit**
Extra credit will be offered each marking period. Students are encouraged to complete the assignment(s) to help to increase their overall grade. Students must submit all extra credit by the due date. Late work will not be accepted.

**Cheating/Plagiarism**
Students have a moral obligation to complete their own schoolwork. Cheating and plagiarism are wrong. Cheating is the practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving a grade or obtaining course credit or assisting another to do so. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating which consists of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished works of another by representing the material so used as one’s own work. Students who violate this policy will receive disciplinary action.

**Tentative Course Outline:** **Texts subject to change**

**First Semester**
Theme: Heroes and Quests (Literary Focus) Fiction, nonfiction, The Odyssey, Life of Pi

Theme: Matters of Life and Death (Informational Focus)
Fiction, nonfiction, Maus

**Second Semester**
Theme: Drama and Poetry (Literary Focus)
Fiction, nonfiction, poetry, Romeo and Juliet, The Taming of the Shrew, The Miracle Worker

Theme: Finding Common Ground (Informational Focus)
Fiction, nonfiction, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

**Method of Evaluation: Grade Breakdown:**

- Formative Assessments: 60%
- Summative Assessments: 40%

MATERIAL ON THIS COURSE SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS OR OTHER UNAVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCES.
Rituals and Routines

1. Arrive to class on time.
2. Greet your teacher politely, using the correct salutation.
3. Enter the room quietly and orderly, and be opened and prepared to learn.
4. Sit at your assigned seat.
5. Take out the necessary materials.
6. Place everything else (book bags, purses, coats) underneath your desk. Large coats should be hung on the back of your desk.
7. Read the ActivBoard to determine the Do Now assignment; follow the teacher’s instructions posted for the assignment. Please do not wait for the teacher to give you directions on the assignment. Proactive students are those who do not need to wait for the teacher’s instructions, but can simply read directions and begin to execute them. (A proactive student is one who assumes control of and takes responsibility for his education. Let’s all strive to be this type of student.)
8. Listen to your teacher as she discusses the lesson focus of the day.
9. Write notes as the teacher models how to complete the lesson focus assignment.
10. Work on completing the lesson focus assignment within the allotted time – pairs, groups, or individual. Talking should be kept to a minimum while you focus on the assigned task.
11. Complete the closing activity – exit slip, quiz, reflection, etc.
12. Organize your materials and clean up your personal area. Please be considerate of your teacher and Mrs. White. Trash cans are provided throughout the classroom and should be used.
13. Wait for your teacher to dismiss you. The bell DOES NOT dismiss you, your teacher does.
14. Exit the room quietly and orderly.
Please return this sheet to your English teacher

Students and parents, please sign below to indicate that you have read the course syllabus. If you have questions or concerns about your child’s progress or an assignment, please do not hesitate to contact me; e-mail is the best and fastest way to accomplish this.

Student’s Name (Printed) ______________________________________________________________
Student Signature:________________________ Date:____________________

Parent’s Name (Printed) ______________________________________________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature:________________________ Date:____________________

Home Number:_________________________  Cell Number: ______________________

Is there anything I need to know about your child in order to provide him or her with the best possible instruction? ___________________________________________________________