

Mrs. Burke
Room 111 – RJH
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English I
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ENGLISH I

The English I course offers a wide variety of reading and writing assignments. The course will emphasize grammar and mechanics; library and research skills; sentence and paragraph construction; elements of literature; and writing for a variety of purposes. Students will read and analyze short stories, a novel, a Shakespearean play, and non-fiction selections.

Textbook:

Each student will be assigned a literature book, *Elements of Literature* THIRD COURSE. Occasionally, exercises or excerpts from additional grammar or resource texts will be used during class; however, these books will remain in the classroom.

Accelerated Reader:

Students will be given the STAR reading test during the first few weeks of school to determine reading levels. Students in English I will be assigned AR points to be earned during each quarter based on his/her individual reading level.

Grading System:

A	100-94%	B-	82-80%	D+	69-67%
A-	93-90%	C+	79-77%	D	66-63%
B+	89-87%	C	76-73%	D-	62-60%
B	86-83%	C-	72-70%	F	59-0%

Grades will be calculated on a weighted scale:

40%	Tests/Projects/Essays
30%	AR grade/Quizzes
30%	Classwork/Homework

You will occasionally be given the opportunity to earn extra credit points during the quarter, but not at the end of the quarter. Bonus points are routinely awarded for bringing back signed copies of your progress reports. You can also earn bonus points by exceeding your AR goal (1 pt. for every pt. past your goal). If you become concerned about your grade in class, please schedule a time to meet to work out a plan to improve it.

You are responsible for keeping all papers and tests after they have been returned to you. If you feel that you have a different score than what I have recorded in the grade book, you will need to have your paper to verify this.

Missing Assignments:

In most cases, students will be given sufficient time to complete work assigned during class time. If an assignment is not turned in on time, points will be deducted. If missing work and/or late assignments become habitual, parents will be contacted to schedule a time for work to be completed before or after school.

Note to parents: I would encourage parents to take advantage of Parent Portal. I try to update grades weekly so that you are aware of missing assignments and your student's scores. **Progress Reports** are required to be sent home **every three weeks**; however, I try to send a progress report home from English **every Monday**. Please ask your child about it as bonus points are awarded when the signed copy is returned.

Tutoring:

I will be available for tutoring every morning from 7:30-8:00 and most days after school. You may work on assignments from any class if needed. Please see me to make arrangements, and I will be happy to help you.

Supplies:

Pens or pencils (please only use blue or black for assignments)

Paper

Folder(s) for keeping assignments and hand outs organized, both current and graded

Folder(s) or notebook for completing daily board work and notes

Folder for showcasing finished pieces of formal writing (portfolio) and projects

Note cards for research project—1 pkg. 3x5 and 1 pkg. 4x6 (lined is best)

Major Units of Study:

First Quarter

Students will read a variety of selections for comprehension and analysis, including short stories and poems. They will receive instruction in writing, including parts of speech, grammar, sentence and paragraph construction and short essays. Students will read independently to meet their AR goals.

Second Quarter

Students will develop research skills, including note-taking, summarizing, paraphrasing, using direct quotes, and citations in MLA format. They will read selected nonfiction short stories and write a personal essay. Students will read independently to meet their AR goals. The final exam will cover research skills.

Third Quarter

Students will study drama and read Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker*. They will perform various play-related readings and writing activities, including a summary, literary analysis, character analysis, and expository writing. Students will read independently to meet AR goals.

Fourth Quarter

Students will read the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and perform various writing activities, including a persuasive piece. They will take the End of Course Test, a multiple choice state exam which is part of the 4th quarter grade. Students will read independently to meet AR goals.

Classroom Rules:

My rules are based upon the Rolla Junior High **Bulldog Code**. We will talk about this code many times throughout the year. Students who follow the code find that they are better students and better people.

The Bulldog Code is:

Be Responsible—for your attendance, punctuality, behavior, participation, work, things, and learning

Be Respectful—with your speech, actions, and person

Be Ready—by taking your seat, becoming quiet, having necessary items out, and promptly starting work

Discipline:

Webster’s Third International Dictionary defines discipline as *“Training or experience that corrects, molds, strengthens or perfects.”*

Students may be disciplined in a variety of ways from conferencing with the teacher, assigning a discipline statement to write, conferencing with the parent, or a referral to the office for serious or repeated infractions.

Recognition:

Students who exemplify the Bulldog Code will be recognized with Bulldog Bucks, bonus points, sugar-free gum, and other privileges.

“Destiny is no matter of chance. It is a matter of choice: It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.” ~William Jennings Bryan