

FUNDAMENTALS OF LITERATURE SYLLABUS

FALL 2025

Course: Fundamentals of Literature

Grade Level: 7th-10th grades

School Year: 2024-2025, 1st Semester

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INTRODUCTION

As an educator for over 30 years, I have a passion for reading and writing coupled with a desire to share the Living Word, Jesus. I have two CA teaching credentials (English and Reading Specialist), my ACSI Certification, and two Masters' of Education (Educational Leadership and Reading). Additionally, I have been married for 33 years, have two adult children, plus numerous pets. I look forward to partnering with you this year as we explore reading and writing, discovering the creativity found through the God who created us. Please let me know if you have any needs or concerns.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Fundamentals of Literature (1st Semester)--This course is designed to cover the fundamentals of literature including the elements of story telling, writing modes, poetry, and literary analysis. We will be reading both fiction and non-fiction texts which students will explore through close reading and discussion to lead to a deeper level of comprehension and understanding of the writer's purpose and Biblical themes, conflict, character, theme, mood, tone, structure. Students will develop their writing skills through various modes of writing, with collaboration and peer interaction being an integral part. Reading and writing development will include vocabulary and grammar.

CLASS MATERIALS

Bring these to every class:

- 1 spiral of notebook paper plus loose-leaf paper
- Pencils / Pens (bring several colors—black, red, blue, etc.—for peer edits)
- Highlighters (2+ colors)
- Notebook or 2-pocket folder
- Class texts* we are exploring
 - *PDFs provided on Google docs but students can bring their own text copies; see Units of Study below
- Bible (any translation)
- Attitude that is ready to learn and share!

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GRADING POLICY

Grades are based on the percentage of points accumulated from writing, assessments / projects (including tests/quizzes), homework/classwork.

Writing: 35%	Assessments/Projects: 35%	Homework/Classwork: 30%
100 - 90%	A	
89 - 80%	B	
79 - 70%	C	
69 - 60%	D	
59 - 0%	F	

UNITS OF STUDY*--1ST SEMESTER

Weeks 1-3 Story Structure

- Various Greek Mythology stories, Aesop's fables, & fairy tales
- Bible parables
- "The Dinner Party" by Mona Gardner
- "The Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka

Weeks 4-7 Modes of Writing

- Various explorations into Argumentative, Persuasive, Expository, Compare & Contrast, and Narrative writing

Weeks 8-11 Free Reading & Research Application

- Student choice of book to read
- Writing, research & presentation
- Informational text focus for research

Weeks 12-16 Poetry & Drama

- *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare
- "The Listeners" by Walter de la Mare
- Various Christmas carols & poems
- Various poems by Robert Frost

*Syllabus is subject to change as needed and at the teacher's discretion.

FINAL THOUGHTS

This course is designed to stretch and build you into a more competent scholar, person, and active agent for Christ. I am here to serve you in whatever way I can, and I look forward to spending this year with you!

- Ephesians 5:1-2 "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."