

TBL English: Course Overview

Hull High School

Teachers: Ms. Brown and Mr. Cameron

Ms. Brown's Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 2:30 -- 3:00 pm

Emails: rbrown@town.hull.ma.us & ecameron@town.hull.ma.us

Ms. Brown's Telephone: (781) 925-3000 ext. 2104

Course Description

During the course of our year together, we will read a variety of literary pieces for critical analysis and discussion. As we read, we will pay special attention to the central characters' identities as they evolve and what these individuals' experiences help to reveal about the societies in which they live. Students will become more confident in their writing, with an emphasis on the development, support, and organization of an argument in their literary analysis. Additionally, grammar and usage will be integrated into individualized writing instruction. Here are some of the titles we may study this year, depending on student interest and time limitations:

Home of the Brave by Katherine Applegate

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

Various short stories and poetry

Expectations

- When class begins, cell phones should be put away in students' bags.
- As we read the text aloud, students' eyes will be on the page, with a pen or pencil to underline interesting or confusing pieces of information.

- Students will work their hardest to formulate thoughtful written responses, using proper spelling and grammar and expanding upon their initial ideas with support from their teachers.
- Total respect for yourself, for others, and for our learning space is very important. Some ways to show respect include...
 - raising your hand to contribute an idea
 - contributing to group projects
 - facing others to listen to them when they are speaking
 - putting your best effort into your work each day
- Should you miss class, please talk to Ms. Brown or Mr. Cameron to stay updated on what you missed. Students are responsible for making up missed assignments, including quizzes and tests, upon their return and in consultation with Ms. Brown and Mr. Cameron.

Required Materials

Please make sure to bring these to class with you every day.

- Chromebook (please ensure it is charged)
- Pen or pencil
- The text we are studying (students can keep this in Ms. Brown's room).

Grading

Your grade will be determined by the following criteria; **percentages are subject to change each quarter, depending on the workload:**

- Class participation, in-class writing, and professionalism **(50%)**
 This includes coming to class with the necessary materials, as well as asking and answering questions, listening carefully to others, actively taking notes and generally contributing constructively to the classroom culture. Spirited discussion, I hope, will be the driving force of the course, and I encourage you to enter into the conversation. Nothing is more helpful in understanding a complex text than discussion – not only adding your own thoughts, but also actively listening and taking notes on what others have to say.

- **Quizzes/Tests/Projects (20%)**

- Quizzes allow us to quickly monitor your progress and check your understanding of the reading, new vocabulary, or other smaller lessons. Tests provide you the opportunity to process and review larger units of material. There will always be time to review and prepare for tests and quizzes in class.
- Formal essays and other long-term projects present opportunities to explore in depth an original topic related to reading, using the text to support your argument.

- **MCAS Prep (30%)**

- We will answer MCAS questions in class to practice critical reading and formal writing, and so you will be responsible for doing the best you can on the questions and for taking notes on corrections when we go over the answers.

Student Acknowledgement

Your signature indicates that you have read and understand this course overview and know what is expected of you for the successful completion of TBL English.

Student signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

Your signature indicates that you have had the opportunity to read this course overview and discuss the expectations with your student. I thank you for all that you do to support your student's learning at home, and please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Brown or Mr. Cameron (see info on first page) should you have any questions or concerns.

Parent/guardian signature: _____