



## High School English 2023-2024

This college-preparatory high school English class is designed to help 9th and 10th graders develop the reading, writing, and critical thinking skills necessary for high school and beyond. Students will read a variety of literature in several genres including novels, plays, poetry, short stories, speeches, and essays. They will develop their skills of literary analysis as they look for the author's use of character development, theme, conflict, symbolism, and other literary devices. Students will respond to the literature through interactive class discussion, in-class writing exercises, creative journal entries, and formal essay writing. They will learn to craft essays with effective structure, to incorporate and properly cite outside research, and to use evidence from the text to support an argument. Writing mechanics will be addressed in the pursuit of writing cohesively and clearly, with attention given to using appropriate style and tone for formal writing. Students will write essays of several varieties, including explanatory, descriptive, expository, persuasive, and narrative, and they will hone their writing through drafting and revising their work in response to teacher feedback.

This class is designed so that students can enroll for two successive years with an entirely different selection of reading and writing projects in the following year. Second year students will be challenged to extend their reading and writing even further, building on their growth from the first year. The course also stands alone easily as a one year course for 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

Samples of the types of literary works covered in this class include the following:

- Shakespearean plays
- a variety of novels, such as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Hobbit*, *Ender's Game*, *Emma*, and *1984*
- poetry by Shakespeare, William Wordsworth, Mary Oliver, Langston Hughes, and others
- short stories from a variety of time periods and styles
- essays and speeches from famous writers, politicians, and minority voices
- the Bible as literature

**Schedule:** English will meet on Monday mornings from 9:15 AM-12:15 PM at the Chapel Hill Bible Church from September 12-May 8 (minus scheduled breaks) for lecture, discussion, and group projects.

**Attendance and Pacing:** Each class will cover a large amount of material, so attendance is crucial for student success. Barring exceptional circumstances, students who miss 5 or more sessions over the course of the year will not be assigned a final grade. Students who miss class are expected to make up missed work.

**Student Expectations:** English is a high school level class, and students must be able to function with maturity in their academics as well as in organization, class participation, and work completion. In class, they will be expected to attend carefully to instruction, participate actively, and take notes as needed. Students are expected to complete 4-5 hours of work at home throughout the week. They will be responsible to come to class prepared with completed work as assigned.

**Honors Option:** Students have the option to take this course as an honors course. This will involve additional and/or different assignments that require students to delve deeper into the material.

**Parent Expectations:** Parents agree to provide supervision as needed throughout the course. Some students will require more assistance than others. If needed, parents should be prepared to begin the year with a high level of involvement that may decrease as the year progresses.

**Prerequisites and Placement:** Students must be 14 by August 31, 2023 to take this course. English students should be reading and writing at a 9<sup>th</sup> grade level or higher or parents must be able and willing to provide accommodations. Students should be able to maintain an organized notebook and keep track of assignments. **Applicants coming from outside Deerstream will be required to submit a writing sample.**

**Grades and High School Credit:** English is a one credit high school level class, so formal assessments will be conducted, and students will receive grades that take into account homework, classwork, projects, quizzes, and tests.

**Instructor:** *Ashley Ransom graduated from Furman University with her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature and earned a Master of Arts degree in Intercultural Studies and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) from Wheaton College Graduate School. She has been married to her software engineer husband for seventeen years, and they have four boys, ages six to fourteen. Until recently, they served overseas in Asia, participating in student and church ministry. While there, Ashley also homeschooled their boys and taught middle school English at a homeschool co-op for children of expats. She has been homeschooling her own children for over a decade and loves introducing students to great literature and helping them to refine their communication and critical thinking skills through writing.*