

Mrs. Lane
Junior ELA EES86QQB
January 2020-June 2021

Welcome to Junior English. This is an important year for you as you are all taking the ELA Regents in June.

Our focus for the year will be based on the concept of the “American Dream”. We will spend the year analyzing the elements that comprise literature and answer the question, “What makes a story a good or bad story?”

Unit one:

- Poetry will be studied for its literary elements. All poems will be written by American poets. We will analyze the literary elements used by the poets to convey meaning. We will decipher poems.
- We will test understanding of poetry through the use of old Regents exams to determine what needs to be emphasized.

Unit two:

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neal Hurston

- We will study the beautiful writing of Zora Neal Hurston and her use of figurative language throughout the literature.
- We will study the themes of women’s role in society.
- We will read several poems from the Harlem Renaissance as they relate to the literature.

Unit three:

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

- We will continue with our understanding of literature by reading The Great Gatsby which is set in the 1920s but the story’s themes resonate even in the modern era. We will study character, use of language, the theme of loss and holding on to a dream.
- We will read several poems that highlight and reflect the mood and time of the era.
- There will be a project due for this section.
- We will watch the Baz Lurhmann film at the end.

RULES:

1. Be considerate of your fellow classmates and do nothing to impede their learning.
2. Sign in everyday.
3. Turn in work to the para. June 10th is the last day students may submit their work.
4. Grades

Homework= 40%

Classwork= 10%

Exams and quizzes= 30%

Participation= 10%

Projects= 10%

Mrs. Lane
Jr. ELA
Spring term
January 2020-June 2020

We are studying for the Regents exam. If you took it in January and passed, congratulations. We will continue to study for that exam and for other standardized tests you will be taking in your last year and a half in high school.

Unit four:

Writing

-We begin the new semester with the study of grammar as a basis for writing. We will review, briefly, the 8 parts of speech and we will learn how to construct effective and meaningful sentences. We will then build those sentences into paragraphs and finally, we will finish the unit by drafting a 5+ paragraph argumentative essay.

Unit five:

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neal Hurston

-We will study the life of Janie in south Florida in the 1920s and 1930s. Hurston was a Harlem Renaissance writer and wrote in the same era as Fitzgerald. We will look at the “American Dream” of an African American woman in that era.

-We will watch the movie.

Unit six:

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

-We finish the year by reading an American classic about racism and judgment in a small town. Though the book is 50+ years old, the themes are still relevant today.

-Students will write extensively in response to the story.

-We will watch the movie at the end.

Unit seven:

Regent's prep

We spend the last week or so of school studying for the Regents test by doing and going over old Regents exams. The best way to pass a standardized exam is to practice taking it and so that is what we will do.