



# Grade Language Arts

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"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view....Until you climb into his skin and walk around in it." Atticus Finch

Welcome to English! Please consider me to be a resource and a guide. We are going to learn together, from and with each other. Our focus will be learning and developing our skills as readers, writers, critical thinkers, speakers, listeners and peers. Our goals in this class are not confined to these walls. These skills will help you to be successful, well-rounded students, friends, mentors, and even in your future careers as adults. You will learn to think critically, to communicate clearly, and to develop your own, unique voice as a writer.

We will be reading a variety of literary works, both fiction and non-fiction. We will examine these works using OPVL (don't worry, I'll explain) and interacting with these works in a number of formal and informal ways. Our goal is to better understand ourselves and how we fit into the world by understanding authors and their various conceptual lenses. We will widen our own perspectives by reading, discussion, sharing ideas, and viewing a variety of works critically. It will become our practice to think critically about the

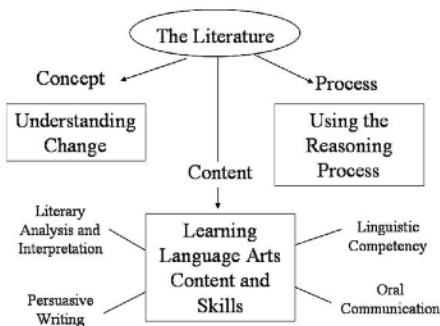
texts (and media) that we encounter and to be able to intelligently, precisely, and articulately (maybe even beautifully) share our thoughts and ideas.

## Some guiding thoughts

Our classroom is a safe space.

We take responsibility for our words, our actions, and our choices.

Some of this will come naturally to some of you. For others of you, this might not be easy- AT FIRST. We can all grow our brains and our abilities with hard work and practice. Growth mindset! Ask for help, help each other, celebrate growth.



## Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?

*Three Conceptual Lenses and many essential guiding questions*

### 1. Who am I?: Understanding ourselves through Literature

- How do texts reflect our lives? How does this affect us?
- How is our identity made up? What factors shape this?
- How do our decisions change or shape us?
- How does our sense of self affect us? How does it affect others?

### 2. Individual and Society How do texts reflect our lives? How does this affect us? How do our decisions change or shape us?

- How does an individual retain their identity when within a group?

Libero purus sodales mauris, eu  
vehicula lectus velit nec velit.

- b. Does the way that society views an individual define who they are?
- c. How does circumstance and setting influence a person's sense of self?
- d. What responsibilities does an individual have within the society?

### 3. From fear to narcissism to In(sane) (humane)ity: Social Comparison, A Picture of Dorian Gray, The Yellow Wallpaper, and The Scottish Play

- a. How does fear underscore each of these themes/texts?
- b. How did fear grow to be out of control? At what point was control lost? Was there a point when it could have gone another way? How?
- c. Who aided in the destruction of self/ of others? What are some ways that others were complicit?
- d. What would you have done in these circumstances?

Throughout this course, you will have options and paths. I will allow for a creative path on major assignments (a visual, musical, artistic, poetic interpretation of your project), however an analytical piece must also accompany it.