

Syllabus for 8th Grade English Mr. Nazeck

Great literature is not great simply because it is enjoyable to read. Rather, it is great because it has something to say, some meaning, some purpose. Our aim in this course is to listen to what the authors of these works are saying, to engage them in discussion, and to express our own opinions about them. We will learn to analyze the works we read and to understand the questions and challenges they pose, as well as the structure and format of their presentation. At the same time, we will continue to acquire the tools we need to compose our own written arguments with clarity and eloquence. In short, we will aim at the ability to read and understand the books, plays, and poems we will encounter throughout our lives.

Rough Course Schedule:

FIRST QUARTER:	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> by Jane Austen
SECOND QUARTER:	Shakespeare's <i>Twelfth Night</i> ; poetry and short stories
THIRD QUARTER:	Summer reading and <i>Hard Times</i> by Charles Dickens
FOURTH QUARTER:	<i>Hard Times</i> and <i>My Early Life</i> by Winston Churchill

Study Questions: These questions are intended to accompany the text and prepare the students for class discussion. Responses must be handwritten and approximately one half page per question. These will be graded for completion at the beginning of each class, and will be graded on content at various intervals or at the end of the reading. Responses should be in paragraph form with correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Vocabulary: Students will be responsible for learning new words, both their spelling and meaning, throughout the year. They will be given quizzes to demonstrate their mastery of the new vocabulary. The vast majority of this new vocabulary will be gleaned from the books and poems they read.

Papers: Students will write several papers each semester, some of which will be 4-6 pages long, the others being somewhat shorter. All papers topics will be assigned or approved by the teacher, and each student will be required to hand in a thesis statement and supporting evidence several days before the paper is due.

Participation: Students are expected to contribute to class discussions in a meaningful, respectful, and productive manner – their grade depends on this!

Grading:	Study Questions:	25%
	Quizzes:	15%
	Papers:	35%
	Participation:	25%

Parents, please sign: I have read and understand this syllabus. _____

A copy of this syllabus may be found on the RCS website www.ridgeviewclassical.com.