

Parent Newsletter No. 1

2016-2017 School Year English 9 & 10H

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I have compiled this newsletter to give you insight into what is going on in the classroom this quarter. Your son or daughter is in my English 9 or English 10H class. My newsletters mainly highlight where we are in the curriculum, what texts we are covering, and what writing assignments are in progress (or are about to commence). Our class motto this year is: Confusion is the highest form of consciousness. This year, I want students to challenge themselves beyond what they know into the realm of confusion initially, so that they can gain insight and open-mindedness as we explore the essence of pluralism as a movement in thought and literacy.

Reading English 9: The first half of this quarter, we read To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. Many students struggle with this text initially. However, it is a good way to set the bar for the rest of the school year.

Reading English 10H: The first half of this quarter, we read Life of Pi by Yann Martel. This is a dense book, with a lot of philosophy and critical ideologies that has challenged many students at this age level. The book revolves around fictionalized memoir of a boy named Pi. Along with the summer reading, this text models narrative writing. Our next novel is The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini. This text revolves around the friendship of two boys growing up, and the impact of choices that have lasting effects.

Writing: This quarter, we are adhering to the Indiana Academic Standards and New Albany Floyd County district pacing guide and beginning the school year with a narrative writing assignment. For this assignment, students are asked to write a personal narrative focusing on one significant event or memory that has somehow influenced their life. In the personal narrative, they must include all of the components of a plot diagram (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution).

(English 10H) In addition to the major narrative writing assignment, we will be working on close reading and literary analysis through smaller responses as we read Life of Pi and The Kite Runner. We also journal on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the start of class to enhance the ability to respond to timed writing prompts.

Vocabulary: Students receive vocabulary words biweekly. Vocabulary exams are every other Friday. On Mondays and Wednesdays, I give time at the beginning of the lesson to work on workbook exercises and on creating a study tool for the exam.

Technology Integration: As you know, we received iPads this school year. As I continue to gain professional development on the one-to-one classroom design, I will integrate their usage more and more into daily lesson plans. At the present, I maintain a teacher website where you can find additional information about what is going on in the classroom: nahsfougerousse.weebly.com. The Resources tab is for announcements to both students and parents. Further, English 10H students will begin using Weebly as a site for publishing their writing and reflections. Lastly, Google Classroom will be the master hub for resources, daily agendas, and announcements. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of that online learning space. I can add guardians to the class as well.

Hopefully this newsletter gives you a little insight into what is going on in the classroom. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. My email address is kfougerousse@nafcs.k12.in.us. I am looking forward to a great first quarter!

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