

Teacher-Mrs. Carla McCurry

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Welcome to Honors English 9! As most of you know this course is an extension of the required Language and Literature for Ninth Grade. The objectives for Language and Literature 9 will be met and exceeded. This course requires more than the regular curriculum and presents challenges both in critical thinking and creativity. I look forward to working with you all and am excited to begin this journey with you.

There is some level of choice for the required pre-reading for this course. One piece is required for all and a list is provided from which you may choose two other works. You will be required to create a digital presentation in which you discuss a theme that is present in all three works with examples from each. Active reading, or note-taking during reading is strongly suggested for these endeavors.

The **required** work is the novel **The Book Thief**- Markus Zusak. Please read two from the following list: **Pride and Prejudice**- Jane Austin, **Code Talkers**— Joseph Bruchac, **The Last of the Mohicans**- James Fenimore Cooper, **The Red Badge of Courage**- Stephen Crane, **Robinson Crusoe**- Daniel Defoe, **Great Expectations**- Charles Dickens, **Romeo and Juliet**- William Shakespeare, **Animal Farm**- George Orwell

Suggested themes to consider: "Journey," "Decisions and Consequences," "Us against Them," "Significance of Family," "Struggle against Death," "Overcoming adversity," "Trust in Strangers," "Dehumanization of one society by another," "Overarching Love sacrifices self," "Self Sacrifice for the benefit of others," "Cultivation of Faith in adversity," "Abuse of Power to Promote personal agenda," (These are just suggestions and many more exist.)

Suggested Digital Formats to consider: Glogster, Prezi, Moviemaker, Knoodle, Smart draw, Slide rocket, Apple iwork, Kizoa, (Power Point should **NOT** be used. Please use a different form of presentation software. Each of the ones suggested may be utilized for free and a link may be emailed to Mrs. McCurry.) Requirements for the project will be available on the class website, along with the names of novels and longer works to be read in class, for those wishing to read ahead (<http://www.effinghamschools.com/1077209261928170/site/default.asp>).

Remember that studies have shown that verbal scores for most standardized tests are greatly improved through an advanced knowledge of language. This knowledge is developed through reading, especially if the works are challenging in nature and provoke thought and understanding. The College Board provides lists of suggested reading and I encourage each of you to begin your high school journey by creating a list of books you have read and ones you would like to read.

Respectfully,

C. McCurry

Teacher Ninth Grade Honors Language and Literature