

# ENGLISH I

Course Syllabus 2019-2020

Contact Me:  
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Steeleville High School  
Room: 8

Literature is one of the most interesting and significant expressions of humanity."

P.T. BARNUM

## Course Description

English I is about giving students exposure to a variety of literature types; Shakespeare, short stories and novels. Students learn to read critically, recognizing allusions in life to the classics, which help to make up the knowledge base of most people, in turn paving a foundation for communication. Writing instruction will introduce and focus on the writing process; personal experience writing, persuasive essays, and journal writing will offer students an opportunity to express different voices through writing. Basic grammar skills will be taught and applied directly to students' writings. Emphasis for the writing process will be placed on the ability to cite specific textual information and then offer personal thoughts and reflections in relation to the text.

## THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

### Q 1

- Plot Diagrams
- Finding Theme in Literature
- Writing Workshop
- Annotating Text
- Independent Reading

### Q 2

- Shakespeare's Sonnets and Romeo & Juliet
- MLA Essay Writing Workshop
- Independent Reading

### Q 3

- The Novel-*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- Literary Techniques
- Author's Style
- Independent Reading

### Q 4

- The Non-Fiction Novel-*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah
- Research Introduction
- Independent Reading

## SELECTED TEXTS

WE WILL ALSO READ A SELECTION OF SHORT STORIES, ARTICLES AND POEMS



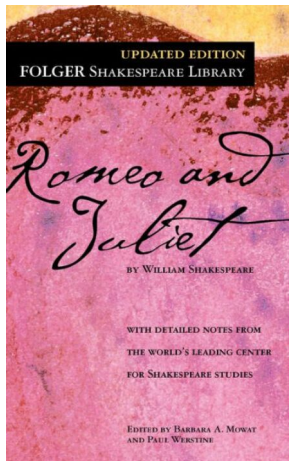
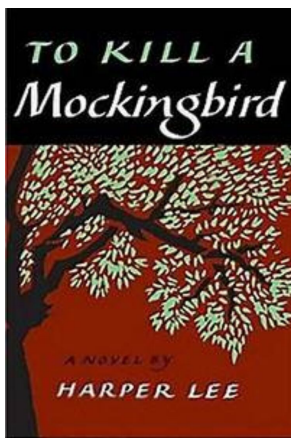
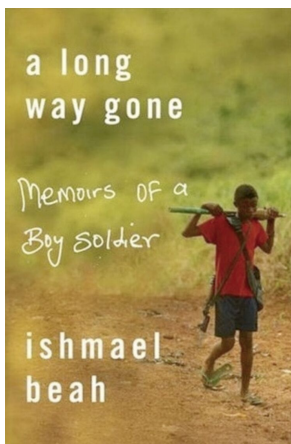
***Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare**



***To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**



***A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah**



# COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
- Increase level of vocabulary and widen the ability to use it
- Recognize the use of literary elements and techniques used to convey meaning
- Recognize and define elements of a novel
- Recognize and define elements of a short story
- Interpret and respond to literature in writing and through discussion
- Understand Shakespearean language and comprehend its meaning
- Apply knowledge of the writing process
- Communicate ideas in writing to accomplish a variety of purposes to a variety of audiences

## GRADES

**Grades in this course will consist of:**

- Independent Reading
- Quizzes/Comprehension Assignments
- Written Assignments
- Bellringers
- Participation



## TEACHING METHODS

### How Can You Expect to Learn this Year?

I like to take an interactive and engaging approach to teaching and learning. Due to this my classes are taught with a variety of methods to benefit each and every learner in my classroom. Freshmen English is taught through lecture, class discussion, individual conferences, projects, videos and oral readings. Students are asked to work together on selected assignments. They are also given notes and handouts for each unit.

## ASSESSMENT



- Reading comprehension may be evaluated through discussion, pop and announced quizzes
- Cooperative group presentation to be evaluated by teacher and/or peers according to rubric detailed with various desirable behaviors that contribute to a quality product
- Successful writing skills will be evaluated by the teacher as students adhere to the conventions of written language as well as demonstrate the use of writing as a tool for communicating universal concepts
- Successful group discussion behavior will be evaluated by the teacher according to demonstration of skillful paraphrasing and intelligent questioning

**-Be a Doer not a Finisher-**



# CLASSROOM POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

FOLLOW THE RULES OR FOLLOW THE FOOLS

## Homework Policy

Generally, students will be given plenty of time in class to work on homework that is assigned. On occasion, students will be required to work on homework from home. It is my expectation that students will turn all homework in on the day that it is due. If homework is late, 10% will automatically be deducted from the assignment until one week prior to the end of the quarter, with the exception of bell ringers. I will NOT accept late bell ringers.

If a problem arises, the student must contact me to make other arrangements PRIOR to class. It is impossible for me to make arrangements and exceptions without an open channel of communication. Please, please, please talk to me if you have any issues completing your assignments.

## Plagiarism and Cheating

Integrity is something that I, personally, take very seriously. Academic integrity means that any work you turn in as your own, comes from your brain and your brain alone. Research and responding to other people's ideas is encouraged in my class, but students must give credit where credit is due. Any student caught plagiarizing or cheating in any way will be automatically placed to take the final exam in this course. It will also be reported to administration.

## Cell Phones and Electronics

Cell phones are a great resource, but they are also a great distraction. There will be times when I will allow cellphones to be used during class but I will always announce it before class. Otherwise, cellphones and electronic devices SHOULD BE PUT AWAY in the proper cell phone charging and storage area when class is in session.

## Class Communication

This class will communicate through Google Classroom and email. All students should join the Google Classroom page for their specific class. All assignments, announcements, and reminders will be available on that page.

Outside of school, students can reach me at [rphelps@steeleville138.org](mailto:rphelps@steeleville138.org). I will respond before 7pm during the week and intermittently during the weekend.

## Absentee Policy

**As per the handbook, students have an equal number of days to make up work for an excused absence. It is the responsibility of the student NOT MS. PHELPS to collect and ask questions for late work. I am available by appt. before and after school or during RTI by request.**

**If you are missing English for a school sponsored event, you must have all assignments completed on the day you arrive back from the event. No exceptions.**

## Classroom Rules

The classroom rules are very simple:

Be respectful in every way. Listen when other people are speaking, don't interrupt, don't be rude to others and so on. You are young adults, use your common sense.

- Restroom: You guys are in high school. I think you can manage yourself. Ask me if you have to go so that I know where you are and sign out on the board. Don't abuse it or I will put a limit.
- Classroom Area: Keep it tidy. If there is an obnoxious amount of trash around your school area, I will take a picture as documentation and you will be required to come clean the area to my liking.
- Supplies: You should come to class prepared each day. If you do not have something (pen, paper, etc) you may borrow from a friend or take one from one of the student supply spaces.
  - Daily you should have: Pens, Pencils, Paper/Notebook, and your binder.
- Late Policy: Assignments will be due on different days of the week. I expect your assignment to be in there the day that it is due. If an assignment is late, 10% of the points will automatically be deducted. Bellringers will not be accepted as late work.

## Inclusive Statement

You are a very diverse group of students, even if on the surface you all may appear more or less homogeneous. Diversity is a strength in our society. In this class, you will be expected to maintain an open mind to the differences around you, and you are encouraged to place a positive value on those differences.

Racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, ageism and other forms of bigotry are inherent in our culture. We need to learn how to recognize and address statements of these attitudes so that our classroom can be as inclusive as possible. Students are encouraged to acknowledge diversity by listening actively to one another. It is especially important that you listen to students whose opinions differ from your own, arguing with the opinions while remaining respectful of the individual.

## Classroom Procedures

Each day upon entering the classroom students will follow the following procedures to ensure they are properly prepared to begin learning:

1. Students will enter the class and sit their supplies down in their designated seating area.
2. Students will make sure they have the appropriate supplies for the day (Pencil, pen, paper, book, etc.) as well as take care of any urgent needs (such as restroom time).
3. Students will communicate with the teacher on any absentee work that may need made up.
4. Students will begin work on the bell ringer posted on the board until the teacher informs them class is ready to begin.

NOTE: Each day students should bring their independent reading book in case there is opportunity for reading time. This is the student's responsibility.



# Useful Information for Your Success

## Ms. Phelps's Website:

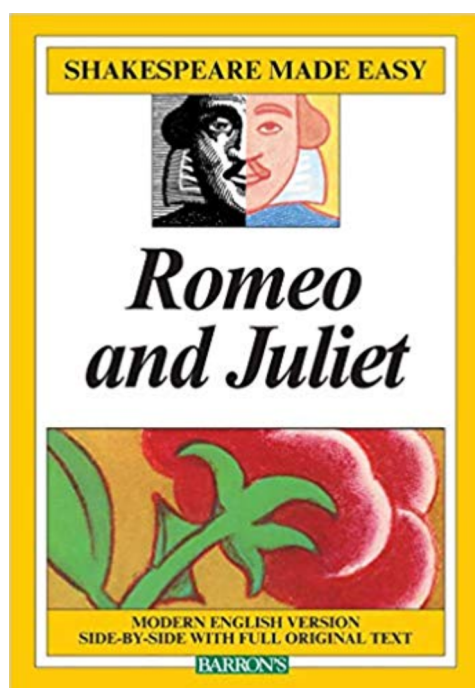
<https://sites.google.com/a/steeleville138.org/ms-phelps/>

## Google Classroom Class Code:

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## Where to Purchase the Class Texts

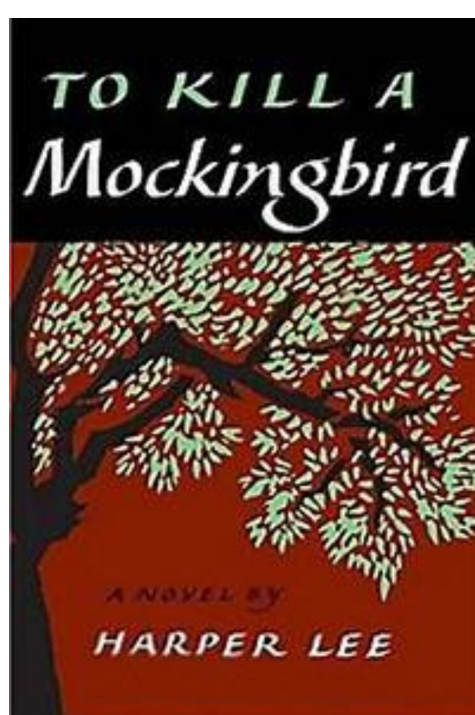
**If you have issues acquiring any of these texts, please notify me ahead of the date we need them in class.**



I like to use this version as it does have the modern English interpretation next to the original text. You can find this version on Amazon for \$7.74. If you already have a version of this play at home, feel free to use it. We will be reading from the original script.

You can also check [thriftbooks.com](http://thriftbooks.com) or any book store.

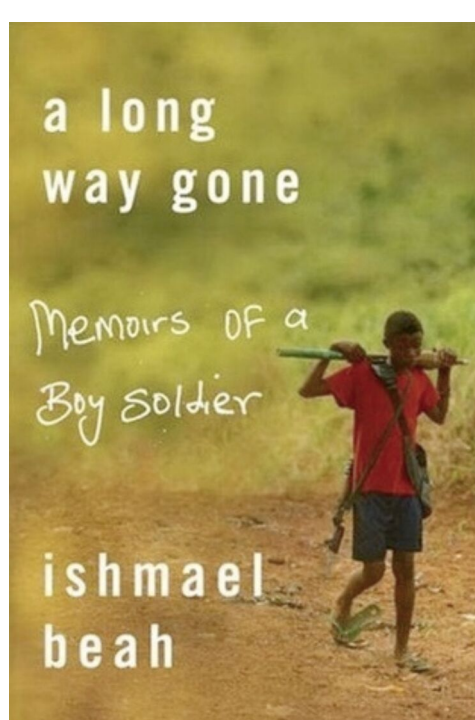
**Have this text by October 1.**



*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee is a classic text that many freshmen across the United States read. You can find this version on Amazon for \$5.76. If you already have a version at home, feel free to use it.

You can also check [thriftbooks.com](http://thriftbooks.com) or any book store.

**Have this text by January 10.**



*A Long Way Gone: Memoir of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah is available at Amazon for \$8.84. This is a new text for the freshman class that will introduce non-fiction writing.

If you already have a version at home, feel free to use it.

**Have this text by March 1.**

# Parent Contact Information

Name (Print):

Phone Number:

Email:

● ●

Name (Print):

Phone Number:

Email:

● ●

I understand that my student and I are responsible for adhering to the rules and policies of this syllabus. Please sign and return to Ms. Phelps by August 23, 2019.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**As always, please contact me with any concerns! I am  
excited to spend the 2019-2020 school year with you!  
-Ms. Phelps**