

LA 1
Mrs. Secoda
Room 404
ksecoda@pylusd.org

Course Description and Objectives

Language Arts I is a college-preparatory course that provides an in-depth study of written and oral language using literature as the basis for expanding student skills. Students will read, interpret, and analyze selections in the genres of nonfiction, short story, epic, drama, poetry, and the novel.

Behavior Expectations

1. Be courteous and respectful to all.
2. Come to class on time prepared to participate as an active learner.
3. Be seated and ready to begin *before* the bell rings.
4. Have all smartphones/cell-phones, I-pods, video game devices, and other electronic devices turned off (or on silent) prior to entering the classroom. Electronic devices *may not be visible* until students exit the classroom; however, students may use specific electronic devices or programs *with permission* for educational purposes only (ie. Google Classroom, Chromebooks, etc.). In short, NO CELL PHONES IN CLASS.
5. Use technology appropriately. This includes refraining from taking videos, using snapchat or any other social media, etc. in class.
6. Complete all assignments on time.
7. Use academic and appropriate language in class.
8. Check posted grades on Aeries regularly.
9. Follow all rules and expectations included in the VHS handbook.
10. Most importantly, be a decent (or better yet, amazing) human being.

Test Taking in Class:

Do not violate the testing environment. This can include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Having a phone out and/or visible for any reason, **including** checking the time.
2. Communicating with anyone in class verbally or nonverbally.
3. Using unauthorized study materials during a test.
4. *If a student needs to use the restroom during a test, their cell phone must remain in the classroom/student backpack.

If you have questions about what is permissible, please see me for specifics.

Grades

Grades are based on written assignments (including major projects), essays, literature tests, grammar tests, vocabulary quizzes, oral presentations, class participation in discussions and seminars, and the final exam. Assignments are weighted as follows:

Curriculum Component	Percentage of Overall Grade	Curriculum Component	Percentage of Overall Grade
Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Essays ● One pagers 	30%	Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Socratic Seminar ● Literature Circles ● Class Discussions 	15%
Classwork/Homework	25%	Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tests ● Quizzes ● Projects/ Presentations 	30%

A weighted grading system requires students to perform well across all categories and allows me to easily pinpoint areas where a student should focus his/her attention or seek extra help. Students should know in advance that opportunities for extra credit points are rare. Students, however, can and should check their academic progress regularly. Grades are updated in AERIES approximately every two weeks.

Course Content: Literature

Many of the short story selections will be located within the StudySync (McGraw Hill) curriculum assigned for this course. In addition, the following texts will be studied over the course of the year:

- To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
- The Odyssey* by Homer

*Students will be required to annotate the major works of literature noted above. Copies of the novels will be provided by VHS for student use, however annotations may only be made with sticky notes in school copies. Any students wishing to write in their own copies of the texts are welcome to purchase personal copies although this is not required.

Course Content: Class work and Homework

HOMEWORK

Homework, or individual time spent studying outside of class, is an essential part of the learning process. Students should expect to do reading at home several nights a week. In addition, long-term projects are often assigned that require students to work independently and outside of class over a two to four-week time period. Updates to the agenda are written on the board each day. **Late work will be accepted with the penalty of 10% for each day it is late.**

ABSENCES AND MAKE-UP WORK

Students with an excused absence are given one day for each day they are absent to make up class/homework and one week to make up tests. Students with unexcused absences, or who fail to make up their work according to the above timeframes, will receive a zero. If students are absent, it is their responsibility to check in with the teacher regarding missed work or tests BEFORE CLASS BEGINS. All make-up tests are given before school and must be scheduled in advance with the teacher. Students will have one week to make up any missed tests due to an absence. If tests are not made up within one week, the score becomes an automatic zero.

Necessary Supplies

It is of the utmost importance that you come to class ready to participate as an active learner. In order to do this, you must bring the following supplies to class on a daily basis:

- A composition book for LA1
- Pencils, pens, and erasers
- Highlighters in three different colors for annotating texts
- Assigned novels, reading assignments, handouts, etc.

Dear Parents/Guardians, and Family Members,

Hello and welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! I have sent home the course syllabus with your student, and I would greatly appreciate it if you could look it over and review the course policies and important information that it covers. After you have reviewed the syllabus, please sign the attached contact information page to indicate that you understand and agree to the policies mentioned within the syllabus. **Please have your student return the signed copy of the syllabus and the signed film viewing policy permission slip (on the last page) by this Thursday, the 30th of August.**

The best way to contact me is through e-mail at the address listed below. Please feel free to e-mail me with any questions you might have about the class. I try my best to respond within 24 hours. I look forward to meeting you at *Back-to-School Night* and I am looking forward to working with you to help your student succeed this year in Language Arts!! Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Secoda

ksecoda@pylusd.org

Language Arts I

VALENCIA HIGH SCHOOL

I look forward to this year as an exciting and meaningful opportunity to work with my students as they learn and mature into responsible individuals.

1. By signing this form, you indicate that you have read the course outline and understand the expectations outlined in the course syllabus.
2. Your signature indicates that you understand that students are financially responsible for any books checked out that are lost and/or stolen.
3. During the course of the year, students may view films that coincide with the major works of literature studied. The Placentia Yorba-Linda Unified School District allows the use of PG and PG-13 rated films with parent permission. By signing this form, you are indicating that your child has permission to view these PG and PG-13 films. Possible titles include To Kill A Mockingbird, Of Mice and Men, The Odyssey, and Romeo and Juliet.

Date: _____ Period: _____

Student Name: _____ Signature: _____
(Please Print)

Parent Name: _____ Signature: _____
(Please Print)

Please sign and return to your teacher by Thursday, August 30, 2018.