

Seventh Grade English
Mr. Dicristina

Contact Info

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Guiding Questions

- Who am I?
- What makes me who I am?
- How is my identity shaped by the world around me?
- How am I treated in society because of my identity?

Course Description

The material we look at will help us think about the questions listed above, among other topics. We will study novels, short stories, poems, and plays, including *The Giver*, *The House on Mango Street*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as well as various excerpts from music and other media. You will also engage in literature circles in which you select books to read and discuss with other students.

You will create pieces of writing and other products inspired by what we read in class. Among other assignments, you will develop persuasive essay writing, creative fiction writing, personal reflections, and analysis of literature. There will be occasional quizzes on topics such as literary devices and vocabulary words.

Independent Reading

You will be expected to always have a book that you are reading outside of what we're studying in class. This can be a book taken from home, our classroom library, the school library, town library, or accessed through an e-reader or other digital platform. We will have regular book checks, and you will be expected to consistently make reasonable progress in the book you are reading.

Homework

Homework will often be reading, either from your independent book or something we are covering in class. Sometimes you will be asked to write about and reflect on something we are reading for homework. You will have the opportunity to work on most major assignments in class, but you'll likely need to spend some homework time on them as well.

Absences & Missing Work

If you are absent from class, please contact me so we can make a plan for making up work. If you communicate with me and take responsibility for what you need to do, you will still get full credit for assignments.

All assignments and class materials will be posted on Google Classroom, so always check there if you're absent. Please check the student handbook for more information on absences and missing work.

Grading

Most assignments will be graded through rubrics (generally: exceeds expectations, meets expectations, approaches expectations, or doesn't meet expectations) assessing various qualities that will then be converted into an overall score. You will assess your own work using these standards as well.

Major assignments such as essays and other long-form writing will be weighed more heavily than smaller daily assignments and responses. Grades will be updated at least every two weeks.

Extra Help

Please reach out to me in person or through email if you need extra help. I am often available before school, after school, and during ME block. Please do not hesitate to ask—I am always happy to do anything I can to help you.

