**Creative Writing**

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Welcome to Creative Writing! This creative writing course is designed to challenge your imagination and improve your writing skills in organization and creativity. You will learn how to articulate your ideas and dreams in ways that will capture your reader. We will explore poetry, short stories, and readers theatre. You will read and write examples of creative works from many different genres. This will be a journey that will give you the freedom to express yourself in creative ways!

**My classroom rule**: *RESPECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS!*

What does this mean?

1. Do not talk when others are talking – EVER.
2. Be prepared for class – assignments turned in on time.
3. Ask for help when you need it.
4. Offer help where it is needed
5. Keep an open mind – do not judge someone else’s ideas until you have all the information.

What do you think we should add? What is important to you?

 6.

 7.

 8.

**Behavior consequences:**

1. A warning.
2. Time spent after school.
3. Call to student’s parents.
4. A trip to the office.
5. Remember: Severe infractions result in severe penalties!

**Course Objective**: After studying creative writing you will be able to:

1. Actively engage in the creative reading and writing process.
2. Critically analyze various authors’ creative works.
3. Use language to examine the world from multiple perspectives.
4. Pose and solve questions worthy of investigation through the creative of creative works.
5. Use skills and strategies designed to enhance the reading/writing experience.
6. Use reflection and self-evaluation to grow and change.
7. Create poetry, short stories and a reader’s theatre
8. Select at least 1 of your creative pieces to be published in an anthology at the end of the semester.

**Attendance:** (as outlined in the Valley Park Student Handbook)

The process of education requires a regular continuity of instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences, and study in order for students to reach their fullest educational potentials. Teachers cannot help students who are not present. .

**Tardiness:**

Students will be marked tardy when they are not in their seats when the bell rings. If a student is late to class due to being detained by the office or a previous teacher, an excused pass must be produced by the student. A student wanting to return to a locker or use the restroom will also receive a tardy.

**Bathroom/Hall passes**: None, unless it is an emergency.

**Homework:** Homework is due when it is due. If you are absent, and you knew about the work, it is due on the day you return. You are will be held accountable for your work.

**Tests:**

Tests will be on material found in the books, short stories, and plays we read as well as information discussed in class and on handouts. The tests will consist primarily of short answer, and/or short essay. If you are absent on the day of a quiz, and you knew about the quiz, you will take it on the day you return.

**Grading:**

You will receive points instead of grades. A total of these points for each assignment will then correspond with a final percentage/grade at the end of the semester. Your homework assignments, tests, and active participation will all go to determine your final grade. Classwork active participation will count as 20% of your grade. Longer writing assignments and tests will constitute 80% of your grade.

Active Participation = There will be various small activities that you will do or turn in to me. These activities will not receive points. Instead, each assignment will receive a (+) if the assignment is completed with great effort and thought. It will receive a (-) if the assignment is just barely completed. It will receive a (0) if the assignment was not completed. At the end of the semester, all of your +, - , and 0’s will then correspond with a final active participation grade.

**Grading Scale (based on percentage):**

 **100-97: A+**

 **96-93: A**

 **94-90: A-**

 **89-87: B+**

 **86-83: B**

 **82-80: B-**

 **79-77: C+**

 **76-73: C**

 **72-70: C-**

 **69-67: D+**

 **66-63: D**

 **62-60: D-**

 **59 and below: F**

**Course Assignments and Schedule: This is a tentative schedule for the semester. We will most likely speed up at times and slow down, as needed. The following list represents the units to be covered.**

Week 1 – Who are you? Getting to know each other as writers

 What makes a good piece of writing?

 What interests you – generating topics

 Journals/free write

Week 2 – Children’s books

 Bring in your favorite

 Illustration

 Plot/plot mapping

Theme

 Lesson/moral

 Types/genres

Week 3 – Character sketches

 Conflict/resolution

 Setting

 Use character etc. maps online

 *Journals Due*

Week 4 - Release your creative energy!

 Voice

Free writing

 Brainstorming

 Listing

 Irony and sarcasm

Week 5 –Children’s book assignment

 Interview your grade schooler

 Begin writing book

 *Plot map and character sketch Due*

Week 6 – Work on plot, characterizations, setting

 Illustrate

 Rough draft *Children’s Books Due the following week.*

Week 7 – Edit Children’s books

 Submit for publishing

Week 8 –Original short story assignment in class work

 Plot Maps Due

 *Character sketches Due*

Week 9 -Fine tuning our best

 Benchmark Exam

Week 10 –*Short story work*

Week 11- Share your story

 Campfire!

Week 12 – Dead Poets

 Holiday Poetry

 Halloween

 Thanksgiving

 *Your own personal holiday poem due*

– Recognizing and using tone and “shift” in poetry

 *Advice poems*

 *Writing based on personal “poetic” moments*

Week 13 –Poetry from the news

 *Creating poetry from a “found” source (bring in an object)*

 Recognizing poetry when we see it.

 Understanding and using imagery and figurative language

*Creating a descriptive poem*

Week 14 – Monologues

 Reading sample scripts

 Watching sample monologues

 Brainstorm

Week 15 – Begin writing personal monologue

 In-class writing/collaboration

 *Journals Due*

Week 16 –*Finish writing script - Due*

 Plan props

 Perform monologue

Week 17 – Perform monologues

Week 18 –Perform monologues

Week 19 –Final exam