**Northside High School
Course Syllabus – 2020- 2021**

**Course Information Teacher Information:**Semester: FALL/ SPRING Name: Ms. Lowery
Class Location: 1103 Phone: 478-929-7858
Email: brendolyn.lowery@hcbe.net Tutoring Hours: After school/Appointment Only

 **COURSE DESCRIPTION**This course is designed for 9th graders and encompasses two semesters that ends with a final exam at the end of both. It is intended to give students the necessary skills and knowledge to critically interpret and analyze literature. Through close reading, students will engage in style analysis that will deepen their understanding of and appreciation for the ways in which authors manipulate language. This course will cover a variety of genres not only poetry, novel, fiction but also non-fiction pieces such as speeches and essays. Students can expect writing assignments as well as quizzes and tests. Students will continue vocabulary development throughout the semester.

 **YEAR AT A GLANCE**

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|  **First Semester** | **Second Semester** |
| Collection 1: Finding Common Ground | Collection 4: Sweet Sorrow |
| Collection 2: The Struggle for Freedom | Collection 5: A Matter of Life or Death |
| Collection 3: The Bonds Between Us | Collection 6: Heroes and Quests |

 **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

By the end of 9th grade, all students are expected to:
- Closely and critically read complex works of literature and informational text
- Interpret what they read and present written and spoken analysis based on appropriate examples and evidence from the text
- Assess the strength of an author’s or speaker’s points an assumptions based on evidence from the text
- Expand their literary and cultural knowledge by reading great classics and contemporary works representative of various time periods, cultures, and worldviews
- Develop the skill, fluency, and concentration to produce high-quality writing as well as the capacity to edit and improve their writing over multiple drafts

 **GRADES & Grading**

 15% Daily Grades: Participation, Note-taking, Discussion, Group Work
 20% Formative Assessments: Quizzes, Outline, Rough Drafts
 45% Summative Assessments: Tests, Projects, Final Drafts
 20% Final Exam (Fall Semester)
 20% Final Exam (Spring Semester)

All students will be expected to take a cumulative assessment at the end of both fall and spring semester that will count 20% of their final class average.  Throughout each semester, students will participate in frequent MAPS testing and WRITE SCORE assessments. These are online assessments that provide meaningful data linked to a student’s academic progress. These assessments DO COUNT towards the overall grade and MUST be taken seriously.

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 **Classroom Guidelines & Procedures**

**Class Rules: 3 Simple Rules: BE RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, AND READY! Here is a basic breakdown of that...**

**1. BE RESPECTFUL of your surroundings**. Take care of your stuff and leave others’ stuff alone. Remove all distractions: food, beverage, etc., and silence device(s). Wall sockets may not be used, so you may not charge your device.

**2. BE RESPONSIBLE of yourself and education**. Come to class ON TIME with your paper, pencil, regular blue or black ink pens, green and red ink pens, a yellow highlighter, notebook, and any other materials needed for success in this class.

**3. BE READY for anything to happen.** Upon entering the room, sanitize and then be sitting in your assigned desk upon the ringing of the bell to start class; listen attentively for instructions; and stay tuned for more details and updates.

**Basic Procedures:**

**1. Entering the room:** FIRST, come in quietly, procure all handouts from the front table, sanitize your work/learning area, and discard all trash properly. Do not walk around conversing with others and wasting time. Once seated, **complete the W.R.I.T.E. Now/ bell ringer assignment**, and read the board to get an idea of what you will be learning/doing that day. Follow the instructions from the board and prepare to take notes and/or turn in assignments.

**2.** **Turning in Papers:** Papers will be taken up by me, a class manager, or you will turn them in on the front table when instructed to do so. **Note: Work is to be neat, written in blue or black ink, and labeled with your name. NO NAME; NO CREDIT. LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**3.** **Makeup Work:** It is your responsibility to utilize the various points of contact (Google Classroom and/or email) with your instructor in order to keep up with and continue the course of study in the event that you are absent. As a convenience, work for the week will be posted in Google Classroom and hard copies of weekly assignments will be distributed in class on Mondays. Therefore, if you are out for any reason, you are already privy to any work you may miss, and will be held accountable for making sure that it is complete upon your return to class. **Major assignments done in class (test/essays/in-class projects) must be made up within 3 to 5 days upon return, while simultaneously keeping up with current assignments. Note: Not all assignments can be made up. You must come to class to have an opportunity to learn and earn credit for daily work.**

**4. Requesting Assignments for Long-term Absences:** If you know you will be absent for 2 or more days at a time and you choose to contact the school to request assignments, please understand:

* Teachers MUST have a 24 hour notice before pick up.
* On Mondays, assignments for the week will also posted in Google Classroom.
* If you forget to pick up the assignments when you say you are going to get them, the work requested will still be due when you return to school. Any work that is not completed at the time make-up work is to be submitted will result in a grade of zero.
* If something comes up and you are unable to get the work you requested, please contact the school/teacher *prior to* returning to school, and do your best to procure them from Google Classroom.
* If you are going to be **absent 2 weeks or more**, contact your counselor to inquire about Hospital Homebound, and then follow the necessary steps using Google Classroom in order to stay on track.

**5. BYOD:** Using technology in the classroom is a ***privileged*** resource that if used correctly, has the ability to take learning to a higher level. The teacher will designate the appropriate time that technology may be used for instructional purposes only (i.e. videos, computers, iPad, and personal devices). **Students are not allowed to use their personal device and equipment (i.e. earbuds, headphones, chargers, etc.) during class time unless specified by each individual teacher.** Failure to comply will result in further action by the teacher and/or administration.

**6. Bathroom Policy/Passes Out:** Students are expected and adamantly encouraged to be responsible and **take care of their personal needs before or after class so that instructional time is maximized**.  If there is some medical reason that causes you to use the restroom frequently, you need to bring a note from a doctor validating this. Leaving class without permission constitutes an investigation and possible consequence or referral. If you discover that you need medical attention, please be discreet (not disturbing the class) and make an emergency exit, and inform me later of your reason to exit. Anything that is not health related (for example, leaving an item in a previous class) is not an emergency. You will have to wait so that you are not disturbing another teacher’s class.

**7. ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES WILL TAKEN UP BEFORE ALL TESTS!** This includes phones, watches, tablets, etc…. If student does not turn in electronic device and is caught with it for whatever reason during a test, he or she will receive a zero for that test grade and cannot redo it. Any kind of communication during a test or quiz **will result in zero**.

**8. Tutoring:** After school tutoring is available with me in room 1103 or Dr. Walker in room 1102. **\*\*** I am available for tutoring after school only. **If you would like to stay for tutoring with me let me know ahead of time to make sure I do not have a meeting or appointment after school.**

**9. Academic Integrity** is something that should be taken very seriously. Academic integrity means that any work you turn in as your own comes from your brain alone. Research and responding to others ideas is encouraged in my class; however, students must give credit where credit is due. Any student caught plagiarizing or cheating in any way will be will receive a zero on that assignment and reported to administration. Upon an investigation of the material, an opportunity to redo the assignment is up to the instructor.

**Class Library and Book Club Library Contract**

Reading is a central focus in my classroom. Reading is a skill. The only way to get better at reading is to read—this holds true for excellent readers as well as reluctant readers. With this in mind, my goal is for you to read one million words this semester. For the average student, two million words a year translates to forty minutes of reading every day. I will do my best to motivate your student to read academically as well as for fun. Some of the reading will be assigned, but your student will have opportunities to select his or her own books to be read in literature circles and independently.

I want you to know I am sensitive to having appropriate reading material in my classroom media center. That said, what is considered “appropriate” may vary from one parent to another. Some parents do not mind their child reading Stephen King; other parents object to the horror genre. Please be aware that the selections in my classroom library and in the media center, just like any other public library or school library, range from elementary-level to university-level reading material. As a parent, I ask you to remain aware throughout the year of the books your student has chosen to read and assist in gauging appropriateness.

Books in my classroom are rarely assigned unless we are reading a classroom novel together. Most books in my classroom are checked out on a voluntary basis only. Some students use my library often; others find books elsewhere. Any student who checks books out of my library is asked to have a parent or guardian sign below indicating that this classroom library section has been read and is understood.

***Let’s get reading!***

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I have read this section, and my child has permission to check out books from the classroom library

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I would prefer that my child does not have access the classroom library.

Student Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Parental/Guardian Permission for Book Choice for REQUIRED Reading Assignments***

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission for my student to read any book he or she chooses throughout the year. I understand by allowing my student the freedom to choose a book, this book may be unique to your child’s book club and may not be one the class or teacher has read.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I would prefer to give permission to each book as my student chooses them. I know I will have to sign a contract each time my student begins a new book. Additionally, I understand my student will not be able to earn credit for work with the book until the teacher has received the contract.

Student Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_