

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The King's Academy English Department Literature Selection Philosophy

The English Department of The King's Academy is committed to the rigorous, college-preparatory study of language and literature from different genres and time periods with an aim to explore, analyze, and evaluate a variety of writing styles and voices. The study of any literature is inherently tied to the human condition; therefore, difficult material may appear in some of the course content. These matters are examined through a biblical framework that supports our foundations of faith as a school.

English 6:	Year	6
Literature and Composition		

Choose Your Own Adventure. Literature selections for this class center on the thematic idea of choosing your own adventure. The course is designed to transition students from reading comprehension at an elementary level to literary analysis at a junior high level. Throughout the year, students will be introduced to literary concepts such as characterization, theme, and foreshadowing. Students will read several full-length literary works, along with short stories, poems, biographies and more. Additionally, this course is designed to give students a solid foundation of compositional skills including: sentence-based grammar, vocabulary in context, and other formal mechanics. Composition is taught within the framework of literature, giving students not only a solid foundation in the fundamentals of written discourse, but also challenging them to integrate the concepts of grammar and vocabulary into their writing.

English 7:	Year	7
Literature and Composition		

Pursuing Perseverance, Character, and Hope. Literature selections for this class center on the thematic framework of perseverance, character, and hope as seen in Romans. This course builds on the foundational tools developed in English 6. Throughout the year, students will read and analyze various literary texts, lessons will advance the students' level of compositional skills including essay structure, proofreading, and editing. There is a concentrated focus on sentence-based grammar, vocabulary in context, and other formal mechanics.

English 8:	Year	8
Literature and Composition		

Discovering the Way of Wisdom on Life's Journey. Literature selections for this class center on the thematic idea of discovering wisdom on the journey of life. This course prepares students for the transition to high school level grammar, multi-paragraph essay writing, active reading, and the further development of study skills. Building on the advanced grammar and paragraph structuring from English 7, students further develop the technical and expository essay writing skills necessary for success beyond junior high. Class discussions, creative writing, and projects challenge young readers to develop both critical thinking skills and an appreciation for quality literature, short stories, poetry and non-fiction, and the value of wisdom in literary works.

English 9: *	Year	9
Literature and Composition		

Social Revolution and Spiritual Redemption. Literature selections for this class center on the thematic framework of social revolution and spiritual redemption. In this course, students will be introduced to a variety of classic literature with a particular emphasis on the recognition of literary devices and author's diction. Vocabulary will be developed in the context of reading, and writing will be taught and practiced through the use of formal and informal written analysis of literature, structured essays, and a research assignment.

*** Course meets UC eligibility**

All course offerings are subject to minimum enrollment levels.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT (CONT'D)

English 9 Honors: * **Year** **9**
Literature and Composition

Social Revolution and Spiritual Redemption. Literature selections for this class center on the thematic framework of social revolution and spiritual redemption. This honors course provides an in-depth study of many of the same hallmark classic works of literature as its English 9 counterpart; however, the class also includes a few key modern titles. Students will spend extensive time on developing key critical analysis skills in discussion, reading, and writing in preparation for future honors and AP courses. Prerequisite: Completion of English 8 with an A- or higher.

English 10: * **Year** **10**
World Literature and Composition

Myth, Madness, and Mayhem: A Primer on the Individual and Society. Literature selections for this class center on the thematic topics of myth, mayhem, and madness. This course focuses on world literature and literary analysis. Students will be introduced to various literary perspectives from around the world through different historical eras including the Classical period, the Renaissance, Romanticism, World War I and II as seen in various novels, plays, short stories, poems, non-fiction books and essays. Writing skills are further developed through formal writing, timed essay writing, and journal writing. In addition, students review grammar and vocabulary in preparation for the SAT.

English 10 Honors: * **Year** **10**
World Literature and Composition

Heroes and Beasts: Examining the Duality of Humanity. Literature selections for this class center on the thematic idea of the dual nature of the human condition. This course is a study in world literature, and the curriculum is designed to give students a sampling of the styles of various countries and cultures throughout history in order to broaden students' perspectives on literature and worldviews. Students will explore the connections between literary archetypes and the problems and privileges of the human condition. Students will learn about ancient Greece, the Renaissance, Romanticism, and World War I and II through novels, plays, short stories, poems, and non-fiction books and essays, and other artistic resources such as art, film, and music to make thematic connections to the literature. This course will focus on developing analytical writing skills through a number of timed essays, take-home essays, research projects, and revision tasks. The writing of reflective journals and personal narratives will also help students grow in their writing skills and prepare for future courses.

Prerequisites: Completion of English 9 with an A- or higher, or English 9 Honors with a B+ or higher.

English 11: * **Year** **11**
American Literature and Composition

Liminal Characters as Symbols of Transition in America. Literature selections for this class center on the thematic framework of transitional thoughts of American authors in foundational seasons of the nation. This course is an introduction to the major American authors and to the principal literary movements in American history from the Puritan era to the present. Students will trace the changing values and mindset of American society throughout time and examine the effects of these developments. Through texts and media of fiction and non-fiction, students will examine a writer's rhetorical and linguistic choices as they evaluate the impact of these strategies in communicating the writer's central message. Class discussions, literary analysis essays, presentations, projects, and speeches are designed to engage students in understanding a writer's purpose, audience, and subject in conjunction with the literary and structural elements of the text.

*** Course meets UC eligibility**

All course offerings are subject to minimum enrollment levels.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT (CONT'D)

AP English Language and Composition * ^ **Year** **11**
The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods.
Prerequisites: Completion of English 10 with an A- or higher, or English 10 Honors with a B+ or higher, and AP Committee Approval.

English 12: * **Year** **12**
British Literature and Composition
Facing Giants in Facts and Fiction. Literature selections for this class center on the thematic idea of defeating literal and figurative giants. This course integrates personal experiences with the literary experience, making a nice dichotomy between investigating students' individual perspective against the perspective of great literature exploring the art of battling giants literally and metaphorically. Students will investigate the personal voice with the personal narrative essay, op-eds, and a final research paper alongside studies of modern nonfiction. Additionally, students will read several classic British texts featuring metaphorical giants whom the protagonist must face while exploring the essential questions of humanity. Units of study incorporate a variety of writing exercises to express critical reading and thinking skills; it will also emphasize rhetorical style, structure, and other techniques of writing.

AP English Literature and Composition * ^ **Year** **12**
Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition is a college-level course focusing on literary analysis, critical thinking, and expository writing. Style, structure, and techniques of writing are taught with the goal of developing a literary sensibility and academic voice. The power of literature to deepen and broaden the range of human experience and awareness is also explored as students work through various pieces of literature, including novels, short stories, and poetry, all with an eye toward critical analysis. Through close reading, students must analyze and write in a variety of modes, including visual media, for a variety of audiences, developing a sense of personal style and an ability to analyze and articulate how the resources of language operate in any given text. In concert with the College Board's AP English course description, this course teaches "students to read primary and secondary sources carefully, to synthesize material from these texts in their own compositions, and to cite sources using conventions recommended by professional organizations such as the Modern Language Association." Featured authors include (but are not limited to) William Faulkner, George Orwell, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Cormac McCarthy, Shakespeare, Albert Camus, Mary Shelley, Zora Neale Hurston, Joseph Conrad and others. The course follows the College Board recommended curriculum.
Prerequisites: Completion of English 11 with an A- or higher, or AP English Language and Composition with a B- or higher, and AP Committee approval.

* Course meets UC eligibility
^ Earns an extra grade point

All course offerings are subject to minimum enrollment levels.

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

Writing Exploration - JH

Semester

6-8

Students in this course will explore their academic potential by engaging in a wide variety of writing assignments. They will consider speaker, occasion, audience, and tone as they write for different purposes including self-expression, exposition, and persuasion. Students will review essential grammar and conventions throughout the course.

Speaking with Confidence - JH

Semester

6-8

This course provides students with the opportunity to significantly improve their public speaking skills by practicing and delivering speeches and presentations. Students will learn to speak publicly in a convincing, confident, and concise style, and to identify and apply key skills for making effective presentations. The course will introduce interviews, storytelling, persuasive speaking, impromptu, and other types of speeches. The main components of this class will be critical thinking and speaking techniques.

Introduction to Debate - JH

Semester

7-8

This course provides students with a foundation in debate by teaching the skills of research, critical thinking, and debate techniques. Students will learn to analyze topics, form logical arguments, and think critically. The course will introduce competition-style events including policy debate and the Lincoln-Douglas debate. Students will build skills in arguing both sides of an issue as well as defending their argument with logic and quality research. This course is designed to be hands-on, with an emphasis on quick, analytical thinking, and convincing logical arguments.

Creative Writing

Semester

9-12

With an emphasis on short fiction and poetry, this course is an introduction to and a celebration of the elements of quality creative writing. This hands-on, workshop-style class is for students who appreciate the creative use of figurative language and also seek to enhance, expand, and improve both their expository and creative writing skills.

Public Speaking and Debate

Semester/Year

9-12

This course provides students with the opportunity to significantly improve their critical thinking, speaking, analytical and rhetorical skills by practicing and delivering various speeches, and presentations, and engaging in both informal and academic debate. Students will learn to speak publicly in a convincing, confident, and concise style, and identify and apply key skills of effective public speaking. They will master the skills required to track complex arguments, ask key questions, and refute claims. Students in the course may try out to compete on the TKA Debate team.

All course offerings are subject to minimum enrollment levels.