



9th Grade English Language Arts Syllabus School Year 2025-2026

Teacher: Mrs. De Leon
Room No.: P201
Email: eleon@coheaedu.com

Introduction

Welcome to 9th grade English Language Arts! I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be your teacher this school year. In this class, we will strengthen foundational literacy skills through engaging texts, academic discussions, and various types of writing. You will be challenged to think critically, communicate clearly, and grow both intellectually and personally. Together, let's make this a successful and enriching year.

Course Description

This course will focus on the Florida BEST Standards and prepare students for the FAST assessment. Units will cover:

- Reading comprehension of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry
- Literary analysis and evidence-based writing
- Vocabulary development and grammar
- Oral presentations and structured discussions

Students will engage in a mix of individual and group work, essays, creative writing, research projects, and performance-based assessments.

Course Goals

Students will:

- Analyze literary elements such as theme, tone, plot, and character development
- Identify and evaluate author's purpose and rhetorical strategies
- Write narrative, expository, and argumentative essays
- Develop research and citation skills
- Use evidence to support claims in both written and spoken formats
- Apply grammar and conventions in writing
- Expand academic vocabulary
- Collaborate effectively and respectfully in classroom activities

Required Text

- HMH Into Literature – Grade 9 Edition
- The Outsiders (Summer Reading)
- Additional reading material may be required for instruction purposes. More information on the titles will be given in class.

Required Supplies

- Notebook
- Loose-leaf paper
- Blue and/or black pen (**no other ink color allowed**)



- Pencils
- Highlighters

Websites & Tools

Students will regularly use:

- Remind (**available for parents & students**)
- Google Classroom
- NoRedInk
- CommonLit
- EdPuzzle
- Vocabulary.com
- Canva (**Accessible through your Colegio Dashboard**)

Type of Assignments

- Daily bellringers and journal entries
- Novel and short story analysis
- Argumentative, expository, and narrative essays
- Grammar and vocabulary practice
- Group discussions and collaborative projects
- Quizzes, FAST-style tests, and presentations

Grading Policy

Grades are assigned using the **Miami-Dade County Public Schools Scale:**

90 - 100 = A	4 pts.	3.5 - 4.0 average
80 - 89 = B	3 pts.	2.5 - 3.49 average
70 - 79 = C	2 pts.	1.5 - 2.49 average
60 - 69 = D	1 pt.	1.0 - 1.49 average
Below 59 = F	0 pts.	Below 1.0 average

Students are evaluated based on the following criteria below:

Test: 30%
Quizzes: 25%
Classwork: 20%
Home learning: 5%
Presentations/Projects: 20%

Classroom Rules

1. *Be On Time and Ready*
 - Arrive before the bell rings and begin the bellringer immediately.
 - Bring your notebook, black/blue pen or pencil, required texts, and any other materials every day.
2. *Respect the Learning Environment*
 - Always use respectful language and tone with your peers and teacher.
 - Listen when someone else is speaking. Wait your turn to contribute.
 - Raise your hand before speaking during class lecture and/or discussion.
3. *Stay Engaged and Participate*
 - Stay focused on the task at hand. No side conversations or distractions.
 - Contribute to group work and classroom activities with effort and integrity.
 - Follow directions the first time they are given.



4. *Follow the Technology Policy*

- In compliance with Florida State Law and school-wide policy, students must keep all electronic devices including phones, earbuds, smartwatches, and similar items inside their backpack at all times and set to silent mode.
- Devices **may not** be taken out or used during class for any reason unless explicitly instructed by the teacher for academic purposes.

First Offense: Device will be confiscated and returned at the end of class.

Second Offense: Device will be turned into administration for parent pick-up or further disciplinary action.

This policy ensures that our class remains a focused and distraction-free learning environment.

5. *Take Responsibility for Your Actions*

- Keep your workspace clean and organized.
- Turn in all assignments on time. Late work will follow the classroom policy.
- Academic honesty is expected. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

CLASSROOM DON'TS

- **Do not** use your phone, smart devices, or headphones without permission if so, phone will be taken away and return at the end of school day.
- **Do not** speak over others or blurt out during instruction.
- **Do not** damage school property, desks, books, or supplies.
- **Do not** eat or drink anything except water unless permission is granted.

Consequences

Infractions will be documented using the HERO tracking system:

1st Offense – Verbal warning

2nd Offense – Parent/guardian contact

3rd Offense – Detention

4th Offense – Office referral and possible conduct grade reduction

Attendance/Tardy Policy

Your presence in class each day is essential to your success. Every minute counts, so it's important to be on time and ready to learn when the bell rings.

If you are tardy, you must present an official pass from the teacher or administrator who delayed you. Unexcused tardies will be recorded in the HERO system and will follow this progression of consequences:

1st Tardy – Verbal reminder

2nd Tardy – Parent/guardian contact

3rd Tardy – Lunch or after-school detention

4th Tardy – Administrative referral

5 or More Tardies – Further administrative actions

Punctuality reflects responsibility. Be accountable and arrive prepared.



Late Work & Makeup Policy

Your grade in this class reflects the effort and responsibility you bring each day. Every assignment, quiz, and participation opportunity counts.

Late Work Policy

- You have a 3-day grace period after the due date to submit late homework, essays, and certain projects.
- Each day an assignment is late, one letter grade will be deducted.
- After 3 days, the assignment will not be accepted, and a grade of Z (zero) will be entered.
- Classwork, quizzes, and tests must be completed in class unless otherwise instructed, late submissions for these will not be accepted without prior approval.

Make-Up Work for Absences

- If you are absent, you are responsible for getting and completing all missed work.
- Make-up work will only be accepted for excused absences.
- You have the same number of days you were absent to complete missed assignments (e.g., 2 days out = 2 days to complete).
- Being absent does not excuse you from assignments given upon your return.

Students with Accommodations

- Students with IEPs or 504 Plans will receive extended time as documented in their learning plan.

Take ownership of your work and stay on top of deadlines!

Plagiarism

Plagiarism or cheating will result in a Z (zero) and parent/administrator notification. All work must reflect original student thought and effort.

Communication

- Allow 24–48 hours for email responses
- Google Classroom is for assignments and feedback, not official grades nor communication
- Best way to contact: School email or *Remind*
- Include student full name, ID, and class period in your message

Disclaimer

All topics discussed in this class are intended solely for academic purposes and do not reflect the personal views of the teacher, school, or district. As part of the required curriculum, we may explore challenging or controversial subjects to promote critical thinking, literacy, and respectful dialogue.

These discussions may include but are not limited to topics such as:
Politics, history, culture, race, religion, and personal beliefs or values.

Students are expected to:

- Engage respectfully with all content and viewpoints



- Listen actively and allow others to speak without interruption
- Use appropriate, respectful language at all times
- Understand that differing opinions are part of academic growth

The classroom will remain a safe space where all students are encouraged to think critically, ask questions, and explore perspectives in a respectful and civil manner.

If you have questions about what is considered respectful or appropriate during class discussions, please contact me directly.

Please sign and submit the student/parent contract on the next page and turn it in for your first assignment grade. Signing and returning this contract will affirm that you and your caregiver have received, understand, and will comply with the rules and policies in the syllabus. Doing this will earn you a 100% classwork grade as your first assignment. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.



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STUDENT/PARENT CONTRACT

STUDENT SECTION:

I have read and understood the student contract for Mrs. De Leon English Language Arts class. I have thoroughly reviewed the rules and procedures with my parent(s)/guardian(s). I understand and agree to all terms.

_____	_____	_____
Student Name	Student Signature	Date

PARENT SECTION:

I (we) the parent(s)/guardian(s) have gone over this contract with my (our) child, and I (we) understand and agree on all the terms.

_____	_____	_____
Parent Name	Parent Signature	Date

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Phone Number(s): _____

E-mail Address: _____