

**St. Athanasius**  
**English 9/10**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00pm EST**

**Teacher Information**

Dr. Suzie Schumaker, PhD  
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**Required Texts:**

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury,  
*Animal Farm* by George Orwell,  
*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Twain, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Shakespeare,  
*Jensen's Format Writing* (also used in English 11/12)

**Course Description:**

Students are introduced to various stories: ancient and modern, comedies and tragedies, fiction and nonfiction. Students will develop knowledge of the basic components of a story and an appreciation for techniques that authors use to make their work both engaging and beautiful. Class discussions will take place from a foundation of Orthodox Christian values, as we explore how the characters reflect, or fail to reflect, the wisdom which is revealed to us through the Orthodox Christian faith. Writing assignments can be adapted for the needs of each student. They will include summaries, a personal narrative, a fictional story, and a compare/contrast essay. Parts of speech, spelling, grammar, punctuation, creative and technical writing will be activities implemented throughout the course.

**Essential Questions:**

- What makes a story great?
- What characterizes a hero in a great story?
- How have stories from different cultures, over the course of human history, characterized heroism? What do these characterizations have in common? How are they different?
- What kinds of human desires, ideas, and conflicts show up in lots of great stories? Why?

**Learning Objectives**

- Write sentences, paragraphs, and compositions with clarity, structure, and beauty.
- Develop a deeper appreciation for God's truth and the beauty of the created world, as revealed in good works of literature.
- Begin to develop critical thinking skills from a foundation of the Orthodox Christian faith. Through questioning and Socratic conversations, students will have some practice and gain some maturity in discerning what is true, what is beautiful, and what is not. (Critical thinking skills are emphasized more in 8th grade, and with some 7th graders. This kind of thinking is not an expectation for those who aren't developmentally ready, though everyone will benefit from some exposure in class.)

## **Grading/Evaluations**

Compositions: 30%

Weekly Writing Homework: 10%

Weekly Reading Homework: 10%

Participation: 50%

## **Late Policy**

Turn in your work on time! You will get the maximum benefit from this class, and the least stress, if you work at a steady pace. If you have special circumstances that would prevent you from completing an assignment on time, please contact me at least two days before the deadline. Assignments turned in late without good cause and prior notification receive a penalty of ten points a day.

## **Attendance**

Please make every effort to attend every class. If you have a special circumstance, please contact me at least two days before class to inform me of your absence. Persistent absences will negatively impact your grade in the class. We attempt to record all video calls to make them available for students who are absent, but we are unable to promise that 100% of calls will get successfully recorded and posted. The recorded videos, while not as useful as live interaction, are made available for enrolled students to review when absent. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to review the videos, read posted assignments, and keep up with deadlines.

## **Classroom Expectations**

- Arrive to class on time and keep your camera on for the whole class.
- Be prepared, with your books and supplies on hand, at the start of class.
- Respect your classmates and teacher.
- Give your best effort and take responsibility for your actions.
- No eating, drinking, cell phones, or extra electronics permitted during class time. Please plan to take notes on paper.

## **Plagiarism, Cheating, and Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism is copying words, sentences, images, or ideas for use in written or oral assessments without giving proper credit to the source. Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of illegal help on anything that has been determined by the teacher to be an individual effort. Both are serious offenses and will significantly affect your course grade. If you are struggling, please let me know right away and I will work with you. I am available to help you understand so you can be successful in this class!