

Short Story

Brevity is the soul of wit

The Road to Success is Always Under Construction

You are responsible for the information detailed in this syllabus. Keep this safe and available to use when needed.

Short Story is designed to introduce students to the art of the short story and to acquaint them with some of its most talented writers. During the semester we will read short stories from various cultures and countries. This course is intended to help one learn how to read fiction, how to understand it, and how to discuss it. The desire to tell stories is one of the most basic human needs, and all cultures have been defined in part by the stories they hear and the stories they tell. We will also explore the historical development of the short story genre, and examine how historical contexts relate to the content and style of the stories under discussion.

Scope and Sequence

1st Quarter

Opening Unit

“The Running Man Unit”

The Lottery Shirley Jackson

The Long Walk

The Running Man

College Essay

Art of the Tale/Oral Traditions

Grimms Fairy Tales

Athletic Shorts

The Tao of Pooh

O’ Henry

Gift of the Magi

The Cactus

The Skylight Room

Hearts and Hands

The Green Door

Annotated Stories (APA)

Socratic Seminar

Oedipus the King

Fate vs. Self Determination essay (MLA)

Anthem

Philosophy (informational)

2nd Quarter

Horror

The Cask of Amontillado

The Monkey’s Paw

The Most Dangerous Game

A Sound of Thunder

What is horror? Presentation (APA)

Short Story Section one

The Story of an Hour

The Little Match Girl

The Killers

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty

The Story Teller

Theme paper (MLA)

Socratic Seminar

Mystery unit

Sherlock Holmes

5-Minute Mysteries

Real life mysteries (Informational)

House on Mango Street

Creative Writing

Poetry

Dead Poet’s Society

To the Virgins, To Make Much of Time

The Cremation of Sam McGee

The Love song of J. Alfred Prufrock by T.S. Eliot

Reading

You will be given some time in class to read the stories, however, expect reading homework almost every night. Much of class will be devoted to discussion, working on class assignments, and projects.

Socratic Seminars

In this class we will hold several Socratic Seminars. These will require you to come to class prepared with talking points about what we have been reading or discussing in class. Please see the attached handout about Socratic Seminars.

Tests

There will be tests and quizzes in this class. While I want to make sure that you understand the plot and characters in the stories we read, only about half of each quiz or test will be asking those questions. At least half of each test or quiz will be looking for an understanding of theme. What is the author saying about human nature, about life? We will also look in depth into the use of symbols in short stories and other media.

Semester Final

While we will not have a comprehensive quarter test, there will be a semester final that will cover all that we read, watch and discuss in the class. I recommend that you have a separate folder or binder for your **Short Story** materials and that you keep everything for the entire semester.

SSR

You will have two SSR book assignments this semester. First semester you must choose an anthology of short stories from multiple authors. Second semester you may choose an author of short stories and dive into their work.

Every early out will also be SSR days for the class. This means that you must bring your book and read through the period. Each SSR period is worth 10 points in the grade book and can be made up at home if you are absent. You must only bring a note saying that you read for ½ hour signed by a parent, guardian, or teacher.

Attendance

The state of montana requires 1,050 aggregate hours of pupil instruction for graduating seniors. Seniors have 175 days in their calendar. 1,050 hours divided by 7 (for the seven periods) = 150 hours of instruction time for each senior. Each class is 50 minutes, except for early out which is 35 minutes.

Seniors get 10 hours for 18 early outs and 146 hours for the rest of the year. Thus each senior gets roughly 156 hours of instruction time in my class. Missing days means that the student is missing not only highly critical, but state mandated hours in order to earn credit to graduate.

Appleby's attendance policy

A student will be given up to ten (10) absences (500 minutes of instruction time) excused or *unexcused per semester. (not counting school related) After 10 absences for any reason other than school related a student will not receive credit for any assignments due, or tests or quizzes taken on that day. They will receive a zero for any participation grade given that day.

After ten (10) absences a student can request a meeting with Mr. Appleby and an administrator to discuss earning credit for absences. Parents are, of course, always encouraged to attend any meeting.

Absences can be kept track of on FamilyLink.

*A student cannot receive credit for work during unexcused absences at any time.

Use of Technology

I am a huge proponent of the school's cell phone use policy. Please read and understand the policy as it is written. If you have questions about the policy please ask before using your phone. Any abuse of any technology in the classroom will not be tolerated.

Parent Permission and Signatory Section

It is very important to me that parents and guardians know what is being taught in the classroom. Please read the scope and sequence above and make sure that you know what your son or daughter is reading and watching. If you have any questions about the material don't hesitate to contact me, If you are uncomfortable with any of the above listed books or movies, I will give your student an alternate assignment. Initials: _____

I also ask for your support with my policies. Please read the syllabus and I am available if there are any questions at charliea@bigfork.k12.mt.us, or 406-837-7420 x242 Initials: _____

I wholeheartedly believe that tardiness is unacceptable. This being said I will keep track of those tardies as the school year progresses. If I must, I will keep your son or daughter after school to make up time lost for being late. 5 tardies = one hour after school or before school with Mrs. Shanks or myself. Initials: _____

Finally, I also think it is important to stay in touch with parents during the school year, not only when problems arise, but to make sure problems do not arise. If you would like to be a part of my E-Mail list, please put it on the line below. It is also important that you know your son or daughter's PIN number for checking the Family Link system.

This piece of paper is the first assignment of the year. It is due by Friday of the first week of the semester.

Parent or Guardian Name

Second Parent Name (If Applicable)

Parent or Guardian Signature

Second Parent Signature (If Applicable)

Parent or Guardian E-Mail

Second Parent E-Mail (If Applicable)

Student Name

Student Signature

Date