

English 9, Part 1

Syllabus



Course Description

In English 9, Part 1, you will explore the course theme of **The Value of a Story**. The course is divided into three units, consisting of five modules in each unit. The first unit is called **Why Tell Stories?** which focuses on the importance of telling stories, the history of storytelling, and what our brain does when we read. The second unit is called **Reading Others' Stories**. This unit focuses on reading an anchor text and identifying characters and the structure of a narrative story about someone else. The final unit is called **Telling My Story**, which is an opportunity for you to tell your own story by writing your narrative.

Course Structure

The structure of each module in the course includes three main sections, referred to as "lessons" so students can monitor their time:

1. **Literacy Skills and Strategies:** This is where students will learn how to be expert readers, writers, and thinkers around literature.
2. **Application and Writing Assignments:** Most of the written assignments for submission will be in this section. Sometimes an assignment is out of order, simply because it needs to occur before the next concept is taught.
3. **English Skill Enrichment Focus:** These are the English skills that students need to master including grammar, sentence structure, punctuation, vocabulary, fluency, etc.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Materials

You will have a choice from the following three of which novels you will read for your anchor text in this course:

- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman
- *Summer of the Mariposas* by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

You can learn more about these books in Module 6.



Course Learning Outcomes

As students complete the course assignments, they will increase their knowledge, improve 21st-century skills, and develop an attribute.



Knowledge: English 9, Part 1

In this course, *knowledge* refers to the subject matter and content students will learn while completing the readings, practices, quizzes, and assignments.

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- explore how our brains make meaning of stories through reading;
- develop your toolbox for reading stories by learning about reading strategies;
- explore the history of storytelling through the ages by reading about how stories began from historical documents;
- identify how to effectively structure a story by identifying the elements of a narrative story structure;
- explore folktales from around the world by reading various folktales;
- explain characterization by examining characters in your anchor text and apply the elements of characterization to your writing;
- describe what S.T.E.A.L. stands for and why it is important to characterization by applying it to your anchor text and writing;
- identify five examples of figurative language by defining them and applying them in your reading and writing;
- identify non-fiction reading strategies by reading non-fiction texts and practicing the application of these strategies to your reading; and
- explore a personal narrative by drafting, revising, and editing a personal narrative piece of writing.



21st Century Skill: Communication: Communicate Using Writing

The **21st-century skill** you will be focusing on for this semester is **Communication: Communicate Using Writing**. There are four criteria students will master with this skill: purpose, audience, message, and content & organization.



Attribute: Humility

The **attribute** you will focus on in this course is **humility**. There are various examples drawn from literature and things to think about to help students think of ways to increase their humility.



Grading and Assignments

The letter grade in this course will be based on these assignments and exams.

Assignments and Grading

Assignment or Exam	Grading	Percent of Total Grade
Skill Assignments (Focus: Communicate Using Writing)	Teacher-graded	20%
Regular Written Assignments	Teacher-graded	30%
English Skill Enrichment Assignments	Computer-graded	10%
Content Guides (1 for each unit)	Complete/Incomplete	25%
Midcourse Quiz + Final Exam	Computer-graded	15%

Assignments

The **Overview** pages of each module outline exactly what is due in each module. Do not skip these overview pages as they are very helpful.

This is an English course so several assignments must be completed in each module. There is a lot of thinking and processing required by students to personalize this course and get the most out of it. Most of the assignments require students to think through what they are reading or learning and fill in graphic organizers with specific questions about the content. Students may download the graphic organizer to their Google Drive or as a Word document save it and then submit it when it is due.

There are some assignments in the form of a short quiz. All of these are open notes, open books. They relate to the material on that page of the module.

There are several writing assignments where students communicate using writing in a variety of formats: visual, pictures, PowerPoint or Loom presentations, written essays, discussions, etc. Students will have the opportunity to submit assignments in a variety of ways. There are always choices to make in the assignments. Students will write short paragraphs, and learn how to write a personal narrative essay and this will be due in Module 16.

There is also an English Skill Enrichment Focus at the end of each module. These lessons will focus on specific English skills such as vocabulary, reading fluency, writing fluency, grammar, sentence structure, etc. These skill assignments are a fun way to meet the standards for English and students often have choices about what they complete and how.

Content Guides

The content guides require students to take notes on specific questions and processes where prompted in the modules. These notes should be downloaded and kept on the student's computer so they can be filled in where asked, in the modules, and then submitted at the end of each unit. Content guides should be submitted at the end of unit Modules 5, 10, and 15.

The **Overview** pages of each module outline exactly what is due in each module. Do not skip these overview pages as they are very helpful.

Interactives and Self-checks

There are interactives or self-checks on nearly every page. They are great reviews for the mid-course quiz and the final exam. They are not graded but they should also not be skipped. They're a fun way to interact with the content and remember the concepts taught.

Midcourse Quiz

This computer-graded quiz will cover the material up to the mid-course quiz. The questions on the midcourse quiz will be similar in format to the questions on the final exam.

Final Exam

The Final Exam consists of approximately 30 questions covering all course topics.

Course Grade

The letter grade will be calculated according to these percentages.

Percent to Letter Grade Calculation	
A	100%–93%
A–	<93%–90%
B+	<90%–87%
B	<87%–83%
B–	<83%–80%
C+	<80%–77%
C	<77%–73%
C–	<73%–70%
D+	<70%–67%
D	<67%–63%
D–	<63%–60%
F (fail)	<60%–0%

