Pre-AP English 7th Grade

Course Syllabus

Ms. DeGraef

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

This class will help prepare students for success in Pre-AP English 8 at the junior high level, by focusing on the five strands of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts: reading literature, reading informational text, language, writing, and speaking and listening.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Focus will be placed on prose and poetry, with emphasis on identifying idioms, analogies, metaphors, and similes, along with many other literary devices. The mechanics of writing (e.g. punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure, and transitions) will be addressed. Students will write narratives, arguments to support claims, informative/explanatory text, examine the structure of stories, and practice literary response. Students will engage in perfecting their reading comprehension skills, and context clues to decode new vocabulary words in various categories of informational material and prose. Students will engage in the writing process to write and revise compositions such as: persuasive essays and reviews that show a coherent thesis, clear support, as well as continuing to practice literary response and analysis, exploring reading comprehension skills, and comparing and contrasting literary characters in both discussion and writing. Emphasis will be placed on Greek and Latin roots and affixes to enhance the students’ ability to decode vocabulary. Throughout the year students will edit and revise both their own work, and that of their peers. Students will have multiple opportunities to speak in front of the class with assignments ranging from reciting poetry, group debates, to making formal presentations, and will be challenged to examine text with critical thinking skills they can take into their futures.

Students will read, and respond in numerous ways to the following works of literature:

*I, Juan de Pareja,* Elizabeth Borton de Trevino

*The Captive,* Scott O’Dell

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry,* Mildred D Taylor

*Treasure Island,* Robert Lewis Stevenson

*The City of Ember,* Jeanne DuPrau

*Flipped,* [Wendelin Van Draanen](http://www.amazon.com/Wendelin-Van-Draanen/e/B000APBY0A/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_1?qid=1406674026&sr=8-1)

*Crispin, the Cross of Lead,* Avi

*The Ties that Bind,* Lensey Namioka

A wide selection of short stories, poetry, expository articles, and short nonfiction

Students will discuss, and write about each work in a variety of ways: including, but not limited to literary analysis, paragraphs, and essays.

Pre Advanced Placement classes do not require more work than regular classes, but do provide work of a more rigorous nature including discussion-based, and project based challenges. All assignments are designed not only to focus on the ELA standards, but to help the students engage in critical thinking.