



**Jackson Memorial High School**  
**English Department**

**Course Title:** Honors English 4 (0118)

**Room:** C106

**Teacher(s):** Mr. Pienkowski - [japienkowski@jacksonsd.org](mailto:japienkowski@jacksonsd.org)

**Office Hours:** by appointment during the Common Period

**Required Materials**

- a. Charged Chromebook
- b. A 3-ring binder or a Spiral Notebook and Folder
- c. Writing utensil (pen or pencil)
- d. Positive attitude and an open mind

**Cell Phones**

- a. Cell phones will be placed in the pocket holder in the front of the classroom at the beginning of class and can be picked up at the end of class
- b. Focus, engagement, and participation are crucial to your success in this course

**Grading**

The English Department requires that the following grading policy be implemented:

- a. Participation 10% (*includes attendance*)
- b. Homework 25% (*includes classwork*)
- c. Assessment 65% (*includes tests, quizzes, projects, & essays*)

**Participation**

Participation is necessary to be successful in this course

- a. Absent students have the option to make up missed work within **two** days of the absence if they have a Doctor's note
  - i. All other absences are **not excused**, and your absence and work can be made up during the Common Period.
- b. Being prepared counts for participation as well

**Homework**

- a. Students will receive credit for completing and contributing to classroom activities
- b. Homework is expected to be completed and turned in on its due date.
- c. Homework may include reading assignments and/or online textbook assignments.



### **Assessment: Tests, Quizzes, Essays, and Projects**

- a. Quizzes will be announced and unannounced; it is best always to be prepared.
- b. Tests will be announced at least **two** days before the day students will be required to take them. If you are absent on test day, you must take the test upon return.
- c. School policy states that you have **five** days to make up missed tests. Please do not wait that long.
- d. Late projects and/or essays **will not** be accepted.

### **Attendance**

- a. You are only allowed **eight** unexcused absences per semester in each class. If you exceed the allotted absences, you may be denied credit regardless of the grade that you may receive.
- b. You are responsible for seeing me to see what assignments were missed during your absence.

### **Class Dismissal**

- a. I ask that you remain seated and on task until we dismiss you for the day.
- b. I decide when the class is over.
- c. If you are standing, you are staying.

### **Restroom Policy**

- a. You may use the restroom before or after a lesson or a lecture, but **PLEASE** do not interrupt the class in the middle of a lesson because you have to go to the bathroom. Please ask to leave the room at an appropriate time. Using your pass is a privilege that will be suspended if misused and/or abused.

### **Reading**

- a. We will be covering the following:
  - i. *Beowulf*
    - a. Tells the story of the Scandinavian hero Beowulf, who gained fame as a young man by vanquishing the monster Grendel and Grendel's mother; later, as an aging king, he kills a dragon but dies soon after, honored and lamented. \*There is strong language, sexual topics, and death throughout the novel. *We will be watching the film after the novel.*
  - ii. *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*
    - a. It is the tale of a man on a voyage by ship who changes the course of his life and death in one impulsive and heinous act.
  - iii. *Frankenstein*
    - a. *Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus*, is a 1818 novel that tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a creature in a scientific experiment. \*There is strong language, sexual topics, and death throughout the novel. *We will be watching the film after the novel.*



### **Reading (cont).**

#### *iv. A Christmas Carol*

- a. A classic novella by Charles Dickens, published in 1843, that tells the story of the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge and his journey toward redemption. Over the course of a single Christmas Eve, a series of ghostly visitations forces Scrooge to confront the consequences of his cold-hearted ways and embrace the spirit of kindness and generosity. *We will be watching the film after the novel.*

#### *v. Hamlet*

- a. This Shakespearean play is about the ghost of the King of Denmark telling his son, Hamlet, to avenge his murder by killing the new king, Hamlet's uncle. **\*\*There is strong language, sensual language, and suicide/death topics throughout the novel. *We will be watching the film after the novel.***

#### *vi. Film Study*

- a. If time permits, we will study different films at the end of the semester that cover all of the topics and themes studied.

### **Reading: Independent Reading**

#### *i. The Color Purple*

- a. Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* is an epistolary novel set in rural Georgia during the early 20th century, chronicling the life of Celie, a poor, uneducated Black woman, through letters she writes to God and later to her sister Nettie, detailing her experiences with abuse, poverty, and oppression. **\*\*There is strong language, sensual language, topics including rape, and death tones throughout the novel. *We will be watching the film after the novel.***

#### *ii. Angela's Ashes*

- a. *Angela's Ashes* is Frank McCourt's Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir about his impoverished childhood in Limerick, Ireland, in the 1930s and 1940s. The book details the family's extreme hardship, including hunger, disease, and homelessness, exacerbated by his father Malachy's alcoholism and inability to find work. **\*There is strong language, sexual topics, and death throughout the novel. *We will be watching the film after the novel.***

#### *iii. The Other Wes Moore*

- a. *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* is a 2010 nonfiction book by Wes Moore that tells the parallel stories of two young men with the same name, who grew up blocks apart in similar Baltimore neighborhoods. The book explores how one became a Rhodes Scholar, Army combat veteran, and business leader, while the other became a convicted murderer serving a life sentence.



### **Writing**

- a. Writing is also an essential life skill: my job is to teach you how to become a better writer. Formal essays that count as tests require the following:
  - On-time and complete the day that it is due
  - Typed - Double spaced
  - Times New Roman Font (size 12)
  - Occasionally multiple drafts
  - A proper heading

### **Classroom Rules: Please adhere to the following rules:**

- a. Be prepared and ready to work when you arrive, and respect yourself and each other
- b. Be in your seat when the bell rings, and follow directions the **first** time
- c. Refrain from using language that will embarrass you, your parents, or me