

High School Honors English (HOE1) – 5 Weeks - John Ziegler

Class Schedule

Summer session I; Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, (4pm - 5:50pm); on Zoom; Total: 30 hours.

Fees: \$425

Course Description

The 9/10 grade honors level English course is a reading and writing course which prepares students for college success. We will explore a variety of award-winning literature from around the world, each with a unique writing component to sharpen students' skills as independent and purposeful writers. The curriculum is based around cultural identity and cross-cultural-communication. This will be a fast-paced class in which students not only gain exposure to a variety of literary styles and genres, but can dig deep into the themes and messaging and investigate why these works have become so popularized. Class periods will be broken into three parts: instruction on background of genres, styles, and literary devices in the text; reading and discussion of key portions of the material; and introduction and examples of writing assignment and later sharing of individual written responses.

Weeks 1&2: Cultural Conversations

We begin this five-week adventure with *I am Malala*: the memoirs of the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Class will begin with an overview of the background to this novel and discussion of narratives of personal struggle. Students will engage in an examination of the novel's stakeholder positions, along with the role of cultural identity. Writing exercises will be in two styles: personal essay about cultural identity, and an argumentative essay.

Week 3: Identity and Cultural Displacement

This week we will read the poems of Ocean Vuong in his collection, *Night Sky with Exit Wounds*. This young winner of the 2016 Whiting Award explores a complex assortment of passion, romance, history, cultural displacement, and identity. Students will choose either a poem or theme illustrated within several of the poems about which to write a literary analysis essay.

Week 4: Cultures in Conflict

In our fourth week, we will be discussing the dystopian genre and reading the novella, *Anthem*, by Ayn Rand. This notable work contains a wide variety of themes including society and class, identity, strength and skill, and freedom and confinement. It provides ample opportunity for students to choose from these themes with which to write a compare-and-contrast essay.

Week 5: Dramatic Justice

The final week will wrap up with the classic Greek tragedy of *Antigone*. A central theme is civil disobedience, and we will explore this as well as the many other themes and literary devices used. Students will choose a theme and use it to write a cause-and-effect essay.

About John Ziegler

John Ziegler has been teaching at Ray Chinese School for over two years and has taught a wide number of English classes to grades one through ten. Additionally, he teaches a World Affairs course and has taught Speech and SAT Prep. Prior to his work in Chicago, Mr. Ziegler taught Middle School English, High School Economics, And Algebra II for six years in various schools and programs in Thailand.

