

High School Honors English (HOE2) – 5 Weeks - John Ziegler

Class Schedule

Summer session II; 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 supplemented with a unique writing component to sharpen students' skills as independent and purposeful writers. The curriculum for this second session is based around morality, ethics, personal code, and societal norms and expectations. This will be a fast-paced class in which students not only gain exposure to a variety of literary styles and genres, but dig deep into the themes 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 with students then sharing their work.

Weeks 1&2: Community and Societal Norms

We begin this five-week adventure with *Cannery Row*, by John Steinbeck. We will investigate major themes such as vice and virtue, societal norms, and community. Students will examine Steinbeck's descriptive style and usage of literary tools and then incorporate these into both a descriptive essay and a personal narrative essay about virtues.

Week 3: Satire and Social Critique

This week we will read the French satirical social critique, *Candide*, by Voltaire. We will explore the major themes of optimism and disillusion, the Enlightenment and social criticism, and religion and philosophy. Students will write an exposition essay, but in satirical style.

Week 4: Inner Reflection and Personal Development

In our fourth week, we will be reading *Siddhartha*, by Herman Hesse. We will look at this author's portrayal of the life of the Buddha through Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey model. Students will write an argumentative essay analyzing the relevance or profundity of one of the major themes.

Week 5: Irony, Suspense, and Moral Dilemmas

The final week will wrap up with a combination of short stories such as *The Monkey's Paw*, *The Necklace*, *The Lottery*, and *The Scarlet Ibis*. Students will learn about the literary devices such as irony and suspense within each one, and then choose one to write a literary analysis essay about.

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 from 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. Mr. Ziegler received his BA in International Relations from Webster University and his MA in International Affairs from Johns Hopkins.