

Literature and Creative Writing - C

Welcome, everyone! I have two primary goals for this class:

- 1) to teach students to analyze works of fiction for prominent elements, such as genre, context, structure, plot, character development, voice, point of view, conflict, theme, etc., and
- 2) to cultivate students' creativity to create their own works of fiction.

All works will be taught using Freytag's Pyramid to ensure comprehension. In addition to fiction, students will read one memoir and discuss its place in literature.

The syllabus is subject to change, particularly if I see a need to switch directions, to slow down, or to speed up. I communicate regularly on the class page, which you (student and/or parent) should check between class meetings:

jennicreates.com/tc-classes/lcw-class/

Password: thursdayconnection

Feel free to contact me at any time: (423) 503-7971 / jennie@jennicreates.com

Fall novels: *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne, *Wonderstruck* by Brian Selznick, *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell

Spring works: *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck, *Souder* by William H. Armstrong, *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai, and selected short stories.

Required Materials: new/used/borrowed copies of each book; access to a computer and printer; a dictionary; a notebook/journal/paper in an existing notebook for keep a list of defined vocabulary words; pencil/pen for in-class work and note-taking

Helpful Materials: a free Grammarly account; parental support for at-home editing

This class has four primary elements.

- 1) Assigned reading:** It is imperative that students complete the assigned reading each week. Since all other elements of this class are born out of the texts, the rest will suffer if they don't keep up.
- 2) Reading Quizzes:** First thing each class meeting, students will take a reading quiz to ensure they know major plot points and other elements found in the stories. These quizzes count for approximately 70% of their overall grade.
- 3) Literary Essay and a Short Story:** Students will write a literary essay in the fall and a personal short story in the spring that counts for 20% of their overall grade.

4) Writing Prompts: Students will have ten writing prompts each semester to boost their creativity. They are not graded for content; rather, they are counted as participation and serve as mental exercises as they prepare to write a final short story. The writing prompts account for 10% of their overall grade.

Note: I have high expectations for all of my students, but as a homeschooling mother I understand there are plenty of variables that affect a student’s capabilities. If there is a problem with an assignment, contact me BEFORE it is due. I have no problem extending grace to a student BEFORE a due date. There is less grace to be extended ON or AFTER a due date. :)

Fall 2018	Topic Covered	Homework	Prompts
1 Aug. 16	Intro to Class, Review Syllabus, Intro to <i>The Giver</i>	Read Ch. 1-4 of <i>The Giver</i> ; Define vocab	Who are you?
2 Aug. 23	Quiz, Discussion, Freytag’s Pyramid	Ch. 6-9, Vocab, WP	He turned the key and went inside the house. To his horror, he saw...
3 Aug. 30	Quiz, Discussion, Genres	Ch. 10-14 Vocab, WP	Three children are sitting on a log near a stream. One of them looks up at the sky and says...
4 Sept. 6	Quiz, Discussion	Ch. 16-22 Vocab, WP	“Don’t touch that!” I shouted as my friend Jesse reached for the..”
5 Sept. 13	Quiz, Discussion, Intro to <i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i>	Ch. 1-7 Vocab, WP	A babysitter is snooping around her employer's house and finds a disturbing photograph.
6 Sept. 20	Quiz, Discussion	Ch. 8-14 Vocab, WP	Your elderly character escapes

			from the retirement home where his or her children have placed him or her.
7 Sept. 27	Quiz, Discussion	Ch. 15-20, plus Author's Note, Vocab, WP	You wake up on Saturday morning and walk into the bathroom. After rubbing your eyes and yawning, you look in the mirror to find a different face staring back at you. Your first thought is, "Who is that?" and your second thought is.
8 Oct. 4	Quiz, Discussion, Intro to <i>Black Beauty</i>	Ch. 1-11; Vocab, WP	Your character picks up a hitchhiker on her way home from work. The hitch-hiker tries to persuade your character to leave everything and drive her across the country.
9 Oct. 18	Quiz, Discussion	Ch. 12-21; Vocab, WP	"Nothing good can come from a knock on the door at midnight. But I opened it anyway. Standing on my doorstep was..."
10 Oct. 25	Quiz, Discussion, Intro to Literary Analysis/Five Paragraph Essay	Part Two; Vocab, WP	At a garage sale, your character buys an antique vase which she thinks will look nice decorating

			her bookcase. But when she gets home, she realizes the vase is an urn and there are ashes in it.
11 Nov. 1	Quiz, Discussion, Review of Lit Analysis, How to Outline	Parts Three and Four; Vocab, Write outline for Lit Analysis	
12 Nov. 8	Quiz, Discussion, Group Critique of Outlines, Writing Topic Sentences	Draft first paragraph and three topic sentences	
13 Nov. 15	Intro to <i>Wonderstruck</i> , Review work	Read/Observe Part One, Vocab, Edit essay, write conclusion	
14 Nov. 29	Quiz, Discussion, Review work	Read/Observe Part Two, Vocab, Write Rough Draft and email to me	
15 Dec. 6	Quiz, Discussion, Return Rough Drafts	Read/Observe Part Three, Vocab, Finalize paper and email to me.	
16 Dec. 13	Quiz, Discussion, Return papers and grades, game for Extra Points	No homework	