



## HONORS ENGLISH GRADE 10

*Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.*

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Honors English 10 course focuses on developing the students' critical and analytical language skills. There are seven units in the course. The first unit of study concentrates on the elements of writing, grammar skills, and the establishment of a writing portfolio. The second unit of study provides students with a framework for reading literature from an ancient or foreign culture, and prepares them to recognize and appreciate thematic and archetypal connections.

In the five remaining units, the students respond to literature by examining the universal questions: "Who am I?" "Who are we?" "Why do we struggle?" "Why are we here?" "What do we yearn to find?" As they analyze how different authors have responded to these questions, the students gain new insights into themselves and others.

Students practice writing throughout all seven units by studying how authors develop style. As they write from multiple points of view and for diverse purposes, the students revise their writing for greater economy and clarity. Elements of syntax, usage, and mechanics become integrated with the reading, writing, and discussion activities. In addition, short research projects cover all steps of the research process. All pieces of a student's writing are stored in a Works in Progress folder from which each student selects pieces of writing for his or her writing portfolio. The contents of the portfolio illustrate how each student has grown and improved as a writer throughout the year.

### PREREQUISITE

Honors English 9 or English 9 with teacher recommendation

### OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE

Enrollment for the next English course should be based on student performance, teacher recommendation, and parent input. The courses available are English, Grade 11; Honors English, Grade 11; and AP English Language and Composition, Grade 11.

### REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOKS

*World Literature, Holt*  
*Holt Language Handbook*

### READING SELECTIONS

Works may be selected from the following list.

*The Aeneid, Virgil*  
*Anthem, Rand*  
*Antigone, Sophocles*  
*Bless Me, Ultima, Anaya*  
*The Book Thief, Zusak*  
*Candide, Voltaire*  
*The Count of Monte Cristo, Dumas*  
*Cyrano de Bergerac, Rostand*  
*Doctor Faustus, Marlowe*  
*A Doll's House, Ibsen*  
from *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, translated  
by Sandars

*God's Bits of Wood, Ousmane*  
*The Illiad, Virgil*  
*In the Pond, Jin*  
*The Joy Luck Club, Tan*  
*Nectar in a Sieve, Markandaya*  
*No Longer at Ease, Achebe*  
*The Prince, Machiavelli*  
*Resurrection, Tolstoy*  
*Siddhartha, Hesse*  
*The Tempest, Shakespeare*

**Standards and Objectives for English 10**  
**Virginia Beach City Public Schools**

**COMMUNICATION: SPEAKING, LISTENING, AND MEDIA LITERACY**

- 10.1 The student will participate in, collaborate in, and report on small-group learning activities. (SOL 10.1)
- 10.2 The student will make planned oral presentations independently and within small groups.
- 10.3 The student will analyze, produce, and examine similarities and differences between visual and verbal media messages. (SOL 10.2)

**READING AND RESPONDING TO LITERATURE**

- 10.4 The student will apply knowledge of word origins, derivations, and figurative language to extend vocabulary development in authentic texts. (SOL 10.4)
- 10.5 The student will read, comprehend, and analyze literary texts of different cultures and eras. (SOL 10.4)
- 10.6 The student will read, interpret, analyze, and evaluate nonfiction texts. (SOL 10.5)

**WRITING**

- 10.7 The student will develop narrative, expository, and persuasive writings for a variety of audiences and purposes. (SOL 10.6)
- 10.8 The student will apply general essay structures to convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content. (SOL 10.6)
- 10.9 The student will apply knowledge of writing process and feedback to develop and strengthen writing and to reflect upon growth as writer.
- 10.10 The student will use specific grammatical structures to develop cohesive writing, to improve sentence variety and to clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
- 10.11 The student will self- and peer-edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, and paragraphing. (SOL 10.7)

**RESEARCH**

- 10.12 The student will collect, evaluate, organize, and present information to create a research product.



### **Mission Statement**

*The Virginia Beach City Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, will empower every student to become a life-long learner who is a responsible, productive and engaged citizen within the global community.*

Dr. James G. Merrill, Superintendent

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION  
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The following staff are designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Director of Guidance Services at (757) 263-1980 or to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources at (757) 263-1133.

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

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Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038.

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