

2013 Building Vocabulary Through Literature Syllabus

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Introduction and Class Objectives

Welcome to Building Vocabulary Through Literature! I'm excited to serve as your instructor, and look forward to teaching you.

This course will provide you with the opportunity to expand your skills as both reader and writer. We will be covering works from several literary genres – everything from mystery to biography – and utilizing the texts to improve our own resources. Students will be tested on new terms, but more frequently will be asked to use the new words they come across with increasing levels of comfort in their own writing. Students will be challenged, as well as be asked to challenge themselves, and the six-week course will present each one with a variety of opportunities to expand his/her writing repertoire.

Materials

The following materials are mandatory:

- At least one journal/notebook of at least 70 pages
- Pens of various visible colors – at least 2 different colors (I suggest black and blue!) – and pencils

Class Guidelines and Student Expectations

I expect my students to demonstrate maturity, honesty, consistency, and dependability, and I also expect you to demand this level of behavior from me. I will treat you with respect, speak honestly and clearly, take the time to provide assistance when needed, and try my best to listen, understand, and get to know you on an individual basis. I will also give you room to grow and experiment, provide you with honest critique, and provide you with an enjoyable learning community.

I expect my students to conduct themselves responsibly and respectfully in class. This extends beyond your interactions with me; I expect you to treat your classmates well. I expect you to earn everything you receive, to ask questions and seek answers with curiosity (and without fear), to concentrate on this class in this classroom, to challenge yourself, and to do the little things – like learning your classmates' names.

Finally, please arrive to class punctually and prepared to participate!

Grading Philosophy

Each student receives a grade at the end of each week. All grades are **pre-curved**. That is to say that I have directed my gradebook software to round an 89.7% to an A- and to leave an 89.3% as a B+. I will not round grades myself; I consider a 90% to be an A-, and the computer is in charge of rounding when appropriate. Do not ask for a higher grade than you have received, as it will not be given. If a grade is unclear, please discuss it with me when appropriate.

Also, those who seek to earn an A will be given every opportunity to do so. However, students must do more than simply complete work in order to earn such a grade; an A denotes excellence, and "A students" must demonstrate a willingness to create and to challenge themselves on a consistent basis.

97.5-100% - A+
92.5-97.4% - A
89.5-92.4% - A-

87-89.4% - B+
82.5-86.9% - B
79.5-82.4% - B-

77-79.4% - C+
72.5-76.9% - C
69.5-72.4% - C-

67-69.4% - D+
62.5-66.9% - D
59.5-62.4% - D-

I, _____ (print your full name), have read the syllabus in full, and I agree to follow the procedures and respect the rules that are described in them. I understand the repercussions if I choose not to follow them.

I/We, _____ (print full names), parent(s)/guardian(s) of the above named student, have read the syllabus in full, and understand the rules and procedures described in them. I/We understand the repercussions if my/our child chooses not to follow them. I/We will encourage my/our student to adhere to them, and will do my/our best to help my/our student succeed in this course. I/We allow my child to view curriculum-related video clips and films for the purposes of this class.

Parent/Guardian phone/e-mails: _____ Parent/Guardian language other than English: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____