



**English 11R--Ms. Kelly Finn
Cornwall Central High School
2023-2024**

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“I see all of us reading ourselves away from ourselves, straining in circles of light to find more light until the line of words becomes a trail of crumbs that we follow across a page of fresh snow.”

-Billy Collins

Welcome to 11th Grade English: A Study of Life and Literature

This class will focus on:

- ❖ Discussing and analyzing a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts
- ❖ Strengthening close reading skills
- ❖ Strengthening writing skills, with an emphasis on persuasive and analytical writing
- ❖ Analyzing how authors use literary devices to enhance meaning
- ❖ Expanding vocabulary
- ❖ Exploring how literature can be reflective of history and an author’s experiences
- ❖ Strengthening note-taking skills
- ❖ Learning and maintaining knowledge of college readiness skills and strategies
- ❖ Preparing for the [June 2024 Regents Examination Schedule | New York State Education Department](#)

For the duration of the year, we will be exploring the following units of study: *self/discovery; the American Dream; social commentary; power and manipulation; principles and morals.*

Reading List

Some of the texts we will be reading will include: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, A Raisin in the Sun, The Great Gatsby, The Catcher in the Rye, and The Things They Carried.* Additionally, we will be looking at related poetry, essays and short stories, as well as completing a research unit focused on Social Issues.

Outside Reading

At certain points this year, I will be assigning AIR (reading independent of class instruction). I will provide copies of suggested reading lists to the library, and will post the list on my Google Classroom page, but students will also be free to choose their own books.

Class Policies and Expectations

The expectations in English class reflect the Cornwall Central High School standards. You are expected to be respectful toward your classmates, your teacher and yourself. You are required to come to class each day prepared to participate in class discussions and/or writing and reading exercises.

Cell phones or other electronic devices will not be permitted in class. Please carefully review, sign and submit the **English Department Cell Phone Classroom Contract.**

Materials

Each day you will be expected to bring the following items to class:

- ❖ 2 section large spiral notebook with perforated pages OR a 3 ring binder with loose leaf
- ❖ Agenda (although we will be using Google Classroom)
- ❖ Text we are currently reading
- ❖ Pen and pencil
- ❖ Post It Notes and Post It Flags
- ❖ Highlighter

Evaluation is based on a combination of the following, using a point system:

Homework/Reader Response/Classwork/Participation (5-20 points):

I will evaluate homework on a point system ranging from 5-20 points, depending on the nature of the assignment.

Most of your homework will be completed in the Homework/Reader Response section of your notebook. Occasionally I will collect homework; other times I will circulate and check homework in class. Your notebook will serve as a place for you to respond to prompts from class, homework assignments and to include your reflections on texts and in class discussions. I strongly encourage you to organize this from the start and make sure to date each entry.

I do not accept late homework. If you do not have your homework in class on the day it is due, you will receive a zero. If you are absent on the day I check an assignment, **it is your responsibility to show it to me on the day you return to school.**

Participation:

You are expected and encouraged to participate. Positive participation in English class means:

- ❖ Being on time and prepared for class
- ❖ Asking questions (both clarifying questions and discussion questions)
- ❖ Using evidence from the assigned reading in your writing
- ❖ Demonstrating a willingness to help classmates
- ❖ Responding to directions or a writing prompt on the board without being reminded
- ❖ Actively listening and taking notes
- ❖ Answering questions
- ❖ Sharing in discussions
- ❖ Remaining respectful even during disagreements

Quizzes (20-50 points):

You will have occasional reading quizzes based on assigned reading. There will be times when I will allow you to use your notebook, so it is imperative that you keep your notes consistent and neat. You can also expect pop quizzes from time to time.

Over the course of the year, we will expand your vocabulary. **We will have vocabulary quizzes approximately once per quarter.**

Essays/Projects/Tests (50-100 points):

You will be writing a lot this year. Your on demand essays and outside essays will allow me to assess your understanding of a text. Occasionally, I will assign individual or group projects. At other times, I will have you take a test to assess your understanding.

Late Assignments:

Absence is not an excuse for a missing or late assignment. In the age of technology, the expectation is that work is submitted electronically (via google classroom or email) in the event that a student cannot be present in class.

Writing assignments (final drafts), projects, or long term assignments:

The English Department policy states that late essays will be penalized **10 points for every day an assignment is late**. After five days (including weekends) the late assignment, project or presentation will **NOT** be accepted and you will receive a 0.

Homework:

Due to the varied nature of homework assignments throughout the course of a year, the penalties for late work will reflect the expectations of the assignment. Typically, homework assignments to be reviewed the next day in class will receive a penalty of 0 if not turned in on time. If you miss class, it is YOUR responsibility to show me the assignment for credit when you return.

The following updates have been made to our 2023-2024 grading policy. In classes where midterms are required this assessment will be 6% of a student's overall grade. In classes that end in finals/regents exams, these assessments will count as 10% of a student's overall grade. Below lists the breakdown for most full and half year courses.

Type of Course	Quarter %	Midterm %	Final/Regents %	Total %
Full Year Course	21%	6%	10%	100%
Half Year Course	45%	N/A	10%	100%

In courses that do not end in a regents or final exam, quarters will be worth 25% for a full year and 50% for a half year.

Please note that if a student misses a regents, this will be factored into their final average as a zero. Students will not be given INC (Incomplete) for regents exams unless they can provide medical documentation excusing their absence. Below you will find the link to the 2024 June Regents Exam schedule for planning purposes. [June 2024 Regents Examination Schedule | New York State Education Department](#)

Quiz and test make-up:

It is the student's responsibility to make up quizzes and tests within **five days of returning to class**. Work not made up in the allotted time will result in a 0.

Extra Help

If at any time you are interested in checking on your progress, please make an appointment to see me. I am available to answer questions and offer extra help **after school or during a free period**.

To foster independence and encourage student ownership, the procedure for a student who is unsure about a grade is as follows: 1. Schedule a student meeting with me (most grade questions can be resolved at this step). 2. If the grade in question is unresolved after the student-teacher meeting, please feel free to email me or schedule a parent teacher meeting.

CCHS Cell Phone Classroom Contract

As everyone knows, cell phones and airpods/earbuds/head phones cause distractions. It is for that reason that in the 2023-2024 school year, cell phone use will be *strictly* prohibited by the CCSD's Code of Conduct Off and Away Policy. By signing this contract, students and parent(s)/guardians acknowledge the following rules. Please note that this policy will be enforced whether or not the contract is signed and returned.

- ❖ Upon entering the classroom, students are required to place their cell phone out of sight, preferably in their bookbag/purse-- NOT in their pocket/on their person. Airpods/headphones must also be put away with the phone.
- ❖ Should the student be caught violating the classroom guidelines for cell phone use, the following protocol will follow:

CCSD's Code of Conduct contains a cell phone policy of "off and away".

- **1st offense-** Warning
- **2nd offense-** Warning and a teacher phone call home
- **3rd offense -** Teacher phone call home and lunch or after school detention with teacher.
- **4th offense and beyond-** The student will receive an office referral.

****NOTE:** Refusal to put the phone away will automatically result in the 3rd offense.**

****After reading and reviewing the course policies and expectations and the cell phone policy, please complete the Google Questionnaire and submit it to me by Thursday, September 7th. This will count as a homework grade. ****