

Mr. Fox  
South Bay Junior Academy  
Course Syllabus

Contact: \*(360) 376-3603 – Please no calls after 8:00PM or between 5:00PM Friday and 7:00PM Saturday.  
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Objectives: My overarching is to develop—in a supportive and collaborative environment—the language art skills of listening, reading, thinking, speaking, and writing in order to build visionary, discerning, and skilled leaders who will seek to be a light unto the world according to the principles of Christ.

This course will meet or exceed the grade level Key Learnings of the Adventist educational system and the standards of the Common Core.

Grading Scale:

Spelling/Vocabulary

Practice	25% (Up to)
Tests	75% (Not less than)

Language

Grammar Practice	10%
Grammar Assessments	10%
Writing Journal	10%
Writing Participation	10%
Writing Classwork	10%
Writing Portfolio	25%
Speaking/Listening	25%

Reading

Reading	50%
Discussion/Classwork	25%
Assessment/Projects	25%

Bible

Classwork	50%
Assessments	50%

94-100%	A	74-76%	C
90-93%	A-	70-73%	C-
87-89%	B	67-69%	D+
84-86%	B	64-66%	D
80-83%	B-	60-63%	D-
77-79%	C+	0-59%	F

## Policies

Required Materials (Please bring to class everyday):

1. Binder with paper and a divider dedicated to this class
2. Composition notebook dedicated to this class
3. Pen or pencil
4. Required textbooks
5. Laptop with charger, but please do not open it until I ask you to.

Expectations: A positive environment that is conducive to learning and collaboration  
Try your best  
Be kind and considerate  
Treat one another as you would treat a child of God

Preparedness: To make the most of our learning time, please be prepared to begin class on time. Being prepared means having your required materials readily accessible and sitting in your seat with your full attention on the task at hand. Use the bathroom and get water during breaks.

Participation: In order for this class to be successful, all students must be active participators. Please participate and take ownership of your education.

Homework: Most homework given in this class will be assignments that are most effectively completed on one's own time. Reading longer sections, formulating thoughts into writing, studying for tests, completing projects, developing memorization skills, etc. are also most effectively done outside of class.

Writing Portfolio: Please retain a copy of all writing assignments that you complete for this class. We will compile them into a portfolio both to display our work and to gauge progress. See guidelines on my website.

Submitting Assignments: All homework, unless stated otherwise, should be completed the night that it is assigned.

On most occasions, I will grade your homework over the weekend and return it to you on Monday (If I forget to return it, please ask!). To avoid any grading errors, please keep your returned work until you have checked to make sure that it is accurately recorded in Renweb. Also, be sure to keep all formal writing assignments (essays, shorts stories, poems, etc.) until the end of the year.

Late Work: To maximize your learning and reduce both of our stress levels, all assignments should be submitted on time. Any considerations to this policy require timely communication by the student.

Quality Learning: Tests are a means of evaluating learning. As such, when students do poorly on an exam, I allow them to study the material for mastery and then retake the assessment; I assign the highest score achieved. In order to keep learning current, all tests must be retaken within one week after the original test date. Please note that to maintain fairness and academic integrity, the retake assessment may or may not be the same as the first, and it may vary in difficulty.

Similarly, I allow general assignments that have been submitted on time to be redone with higher quality and for a higher grade. **In cases where it appears that carelessness has prevailed, I will ask the student to apply himself/herself before I grade the assignment.** Resubmissions should generally be turned in within one week after receiving the graded assignment.

Original Thought: The purpose of true education is to develop knowledge, understanding, and skills. Parroting someone else's thoughts, opinions, or analysis prevents you from maximizing your learning potential. **All assignments in this class must be a product of your own effort, thought, and understanding.**

Absences: If a student misses a class, it is his/her responsibility to ask me in a timely manner what needs to be made up.

Tutoring: If you need extra help, I would love to help you; however, it is your responsibility to approach me. I am available to assist you after school until 4:30 on most days except for Monday. Also, feel free to call me at home.

Accommodations: If you have a policy that will work better for you, please talk with me.

Personal Request: If you like what I'm doing, tell someone else. If you don't like what I'm doing, please tell me.

### Reading Class

An important purpose of reading is to interact with ideas and to stimulate thought. A significant focus of this class is developing and sharing our own thoughts based on what we have read. Therefore, it is extremely important that you take the time to read what is assigned. You might find yourself enjoying reading if you find a comfortable place where you can concentrate, and then get cozy, turn off your electronic devices, and let your perspective grow. **If you're spending more than half an hour reading each night, please talk with me.**

In order to receive satisfactory credit for this class, students need to read at least 80% of all assigned reading

Reading a summary or an analysis of an author's thoughts neuters their art and perspective. It also greatly diminishes any growth that you can experience from reading the original text. Therefore, unless otherwise specified, please avoid using **any** outside analysis or summary of literature that we are studying (i.e. SparkNotes, BookRags, Shmoop, etc.).