**Pre-AP English 9**

**Academy for Technology and the Classics**

**Mrs. Gardner**

**Course Overview:**

Welcome to your freshman year at ATC, and welcome to pre-AP English 9! With high school comes an exciting time of examining and learning more about yourself, the world around you, and how you will ultimately choose to interact with and contribute to that world. Through the study of literature and various forms of writing, we will examine man’s timeless conflicts with himself, others, and his environment. We’ll analyze the forces that shape those conflicts and determine the value of the resolutions offered within the literary works. Together we’ll uncover the various authors’ purposes and see where they are (and are not) relevant to our lives. Always, we will take away a greater understanding of others, ourselves, and the world in which we live. It is critical in an advanced course that students ask questions, listen actively to their peers and the instructor, and synthesize the various forms of information to make meaning for themselves. Literature and writing are all about exploration for the purpose of making and communicating meaning. Thus, discussion will be central to our class, and respect for one another’s views is expected. This will be a safe place to explore ideas and share our mental wanderings and wonderings.

**Major Course Readings:**

* *Fahrenheit 451* by Bradbury;
* *The Old Man and the Sea* by Hemingway
* *Romeo and Juliet* by Shakespeare
* *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
* *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya

**In addition, short stories, poetry, and non-fiction will supplement major works**

**Course Objectives:**

* To develop close reading and critical thinking skills.
* To increase vocabulary and our facility with the English language.
* To improve both analytical and creative writing abilities.
* To use textual evidence in writing and discussions.
* To enhance listening and speaking skills.
* To take responsibility for your learning process and take academic risks.

**Class Expectations:**

* Students are expected to come to class on time every day, prepared to work, with all assignments completed. This means having writing utensils, paper, assigned reading material, and a positive attitude.
* Students will be required to keep a neatly organized notebook. This notebook will not be graded, but being organized and taking responsibility for your own work is an important life skill. Sections I would recommend are as follows: Vocabulary, Homework, Notes, Grammar, and Tests and Quizzes.
* Work must be your own. You have so many valuable things to say. Do not plagiarize. This will not be tolerated.
* Our one class behavior rule is to **be kind**.

**Homework Policy:**

We will follow ATC’s homework policy. Homework is due when assigned. English homework at ATC is, with limited exceptions, due on Wednesdays and Fridays. Late work will be worth 60% of the grade earned. Students will have one opportunity to attend an ER tutorial and turn in the work by the Monday of the following week for 60% of the grade earned. Work not turned in after that receives a hard zero. Students will have the same number of days absent to make-up work for each excused absence (e.g. A student who is excused absent two days will have two days to make up work missed). Work missed due to unexcused absence will follow the late-work policy.

**Grading:**

We will use a standard grading scale of 90%-100% = A; 80%-89% = B; 70% - 79% = C; 60% - 69% = D; and 59% and lower = F. There is no grade weighting.