

# WORLD LITERATURE

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honors

Welcome to Honors World Literature and, more importantly, to Conestoga High School! Together in our community of readers, writers, and thinkers, we'll learn about ourselves and the world around us. Specifically, we'll investigate the ways in which reading can enliven our minds and writing can sharpen our thinking.

## SKILLS

This year, we will **READ** widely and deeply, as we explore texts from a variety of cultures, societies, and time periods. We will also read several different genres, as we begin with the oldest of forms—the epic—and continue to contemporary novels. However, while we will read many whole-class texts together, we will also spend a significant amount of time dedicated to independent reading (see below).

We will draw inspiration, ideas, and evidence from our reading to **WRITE** across a variety of essay modes and genres. Expect to think deeply about the function and *craft* of writing—how writers draw from a variety of strategies to achieve their purpose. We'll look carefully at the tools writers use as we collect mentor texts for our own writing. There will be several writing assignments per marking period, with some time in class dedicated to writing workshop, culminating in a writing portfolio at the end of the year.

## ASSESSMENTS

Students earn grades for class participation, writing assignments, tests and quizzes (announced and unannounced), and a variety of other possible projects. Expect to have homework each night, some of which will be graded. Grades will be calculated using a “total points” system.

## WHAT WE'RE READING TOGETHER

- Summer reading
- *The Epic of Gilgamesh* trans. by Herbert Mason
- *The Ramayana* (various translations)
- *Much Ado About Nothing* by Shakespeare
- *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand (time permitting)
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
- *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Adichie
- *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- Selected non-fiction, short stories, and poetry throughout

## INDEPENDENT RDG

Research consistently shows that independent reading has significant benefits on learning across the curriculum. During the school year, you will have regular and multiple opportunities to explore books and develop a habit of reading.

Because one of the primary goals is to read for pleasure and personal growth, you may choose any book for independent reading. Only in rare cases will teacher discretion be applied. Be prepared to read regularly in and out of class, 2 to 4 hours per week or more (in addition to any regular homework); to reflect in writing; and to share your reading experiences with fellow classmates during class and in our online book club.

## DIGITAL LEARNING

We will explore and use many digital tools in the service of our learning, including but not limited to wikis, discussion forums, blogs, and other apps.

The T/E school district will implement a school-wide BYOD initiative this fall. Conestoga students will be able to bring electronic devices for learning *at the discretion of each individual teacher*.

Electronic devices such as mobile phones, tablets, e-readers, or laptops are *not* required. However, on selected days and with teacher guidance, you may be invited to use your personal devices during a lesson.

Please refer to the district's Acceptable Use Guidelines or Student Code of Conduct for more information.

## LATE WORK

It is the responsibility of each student to make sure assignments are turned in on time. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates indicated for each assignment. Please be sure to pay attention to due dates announced in class and posted on the board.

English Department Practice: An assignment not turned in at the beginning of class but on the same day will receive a 5% grade reduction. Each day an assignment is late will result in a 10% grade reduction (for example, three days late means a 30% grade reduction). After ten school days late, credit can no longer be earned on the assignment.

## WHAT YOU NEED

### Bring to class daily

- Curiosity
- Initiative
- Open-mindedness
- Attention to detail
- Strong work ethic

### Tools to write

- Pens, pencils, highlighter

### A place to keep your ideas

- 1 to 1 ½ inch binder
- Dividers (5 subjects)
- A *non-spiral* notebook dedicated to English (medium-sized journal, Marble composition notebook or similar)
- USB flash drive (can be shared with other classes)

### Ways to extend your thinking

- Colored pencils
- Post-it notes (3x3 size)

## A FINAL NOTE

To get us started on a successful year, please complete two surveys on [mrsEbarvia.com](http://mrsEbarvia.com)—a Reading Inventory and the Student Contact Form (under Honors World Lit > Assignments and Updates). Please complete both surveys by the end of the first week of school.