

Cypress High School  
English 9  
2021-2022 Syllabus  
Ms. Pinther

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Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays 1:15 to 2pm  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:45 to 3:30

Welcome to Cypress High School! I am excited for a rewarding school year in English 9. Below are some of the topics and books that we might be covering based on student interest and student pacing. All possible texts are subject to change. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions. Google classroom code:

Parent Signature Link: <https://forms.gle/j1cipjx7KwgRp1Xv9>

**Course Goals:**

1. Students will learn how to properly format an essay, a poem, a narrative, and a speech.
2. Students will read a variety of texts that challenge their critical thinking skills.
3. Students will communicate through writing, small groups, and via formal presentations.
4. Students will speak with elevated diction as we move through vocabulary terms throughout the school year.

**Quarter 1: What is your story?**

**Possible Texts/Topics:**

1. Interviewing Techniques and Questions
2. "[The Pedestrian](#)" by Ray Bradbury (short story)
3. "[Marigolds](#)" by Eugenia Collier (short story)
4. "[Puro Amor](#)" by Sandra Cisneros (short story)
5. "[Click Clack the Rattlebag](#)" and "[October](#)" by Neil Gaiman (short story)
6. [Persepolis](#) by Marjane Satrapi

**Major Assignments:**

1. Transcript of an [interview](#) with a mentor
2. [Narrative](#) of reflective experience
  - a. [Samples](#)
3. Writing your own short story
4. Chimamanda Adichie's [Ted Talk](#)
4. Vocabulary Test

## Quarter 2: What is the most challenging teen issue?

### Possible Texts:

1. Shakespeare's [Romeo and Juliet](#) (play)
2. "[Pyramus and Thisbe](#)" by Ovid (myth)
3. Relevant and timely articles pertaining to the thematic question

### Major Assignments:

1. Essay: [Synthesis of research, reading, and personal opinion.](#)
2. [Love Languages](#)
3. Vocabulary Test

## Quarter 3: What do you stand for?

### Possible Texts/Topics:

1. *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai (memoir)
2. Theme
3. 9/11 in a global context

### Major Assignments:

1. [Thematic Essay](#)
2. [Guided Research on 9/11](#)
3. Ziauddin's [Ted Talk](#)
4. Public Diary Entry
5. Vocabulary Test

## Quarter 4: How does poetry offer a unique POV?

### Possible Texts/Topics:

1. Various Poems
  - a. Amanda Gorman
  - b. Langston Hughes
  - c. James B. Golden
  - d. Danusha Lameris
  - e. Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts
  - f. Li Young Lee
2. Poetic Devices
3. Presentations

### Major Assignments:

1. Research a style of poetry, then write and perform a poem within the genre you studied
2. More TBD
2. Vocabulary Test

## How will you be graded?

Student Discussion: 20%  
Quarterly Vocabulary Tests: 15%  
Major Assignments: 50%  
Classwork: 15%

A = 100% - 90%  
B = 89% - 80%  
C = 79% - 70%  
D = 69% - 60%  
F = 59% - 50%

<b>Supplies:</b>	
Pens and Pencils Highlighter Sticky Notes	Notebook specifically for English Section in your binder specifically for English