

Reading Public Schools

Instilling a joy of learning and inspiring the innovative leaders of tomorrow



English Curriculum Guide

Advanced Placement Literature & Composition

Course Description

This course is for the select student who has demonstrated both superior ability and extraordinary interest in the study of literature. Students who can comprehend sophisticated works of literature independently and write with fluency and command of vocabulary will be candidates for this course. This course is the most intensive study of literature offered by the English department. In addition to prose fiction, poetry, and drama, students will examine works of scholarly analysis representing various schools of critical thought. Course readings, combined with consideration of readings completed in previous English courses, will stimulate vigorous discussion of the literary works that articulate and define the contemporary condition. Frequent analytical writing assignments will be an essential component of the course.

Reading & Writing Skills

READING

MA Curriculum Frameworks Standards RL. 1-7, 10

- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence.
- Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text.
- Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story.
- Determine the figurative or connotative meaning(s) of words and phrases.
- Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.
- Analyze a case in which grasping point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant.
- Analyze one or more critical responses to a work or body of work.
- Independently and proficiently read and comprehend texts representing a variety of genres, cultures, and perspectives.

WRITING

MA Curriculum Frameworks Standards W1-6, 8-10

- Write arguments.
- Write informative/explanatory texts.
- Produce clear and coherent writing appropriate to the audience.
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed
- Use technology to produce, publish, and update writing products.
- When conducting research, gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources.
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, interpretation, reflection, and research.

College Board Skill Categories

The College Board identifies seven skill categories for AP Literature & Composition.

1. Explain the function of character.
2. Explain the function of setting.
3. Explain the function of plot and structure.
4. Explain the function of the narrator or speaker.
5. Explain the function of word choice, imagery, and symbols.
6. Explain the function of comparison.
7. Develop textually substantiated arguments about interpretations of a part or all of a text.

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English Curriculum Guide Overview

Curriculum Guide

Curriculum guides are public documents aligned with the Massachusetts Department of Education Curriculum Frameworks . They focus on the set of standards that students will learn within certain disciplines at appropriate grade levels. Each area of the curriculum is divided into general strands (broad categories) under which the standards fall. When we discuss “standards-based education” we mean that students are measured against their proficiency and growth towards meeting these standards. Curriculum Guides are intended for teachers, parents, and the wider school community as an overview document of the course of study for the year.

Content Standards

The content standards for Advanced Placement classes at Reading Memorial High School are set by the College Board. For more information please refer to: <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-english-literature-and-composition>

Essential Questions

Essential questions are questions that are not answerable with an easy answer or a simple instruction. The purpose of essential questions is to provide opportunities for inquiry into the learning and act as an umbrella to anchor the unit/lesson.

AP Exam: Multiple Choice

The exam for AP Literature & Composition includes five sets of multiple choice questions. Each set follows a prose fiction or poetry passage. The test will include at least two prose fiction passages and at least two poetry passages.

AP Exam: Free Response

The exam for AP Literature & Composition includes three free response questions. It contains one literary analysis of a given poem and one literary analysis of a given prose fiction selection. Lastly, it contains one analysis of a concept, issue, or element of a work of literary merit selected by the student.