Barack Obama School for Social Justice

Mrs. Vushaj

English 11

Course Overview: This year in English we will discuss the theme of relationships. We will examine texts based on their relevance to an individual’s experience and its historical context. Students will read pieces that vary in genre, subject matter, and analyze each piece for the author’s purpose, literary technique and meaning. Students will be expected to turn homework in on time, be present in class and ready to participate in daily discussions. Students must also demonstrate their knowledge of the content during quarterly exams, individual and group projects. Tests, quizzes, and projects will be announced, and students will be advised about how to prepare for each assessment. **All English 11 students will also prepare for the NY State Regents exam in January.**

Goals:

* Students will improve their reading comprehension skills by implementing various reading strategies such as graphic organizers, questioning the text, and Socratic Seminar.
* Students will answer and craft higher order thinking questions to find meaning from a text.
* Students will read and examine various genres and forms of literary texts.
* Students will compose texts modeled after sample texts read and discussed in class.
* Students will write well organized and polished final writing pieces that include strong thesis statements, supporting details, and demonstrate knowledge of grammatical rules and writing conventions.

Texts to be studied this year:

Students will examine various poems, short stories, essays, film clips and song lyrics. Texts will include “Knock, Knock” by Daniel Beaty, “The Guilty Party” by O. Henry, “The Last Duchess” by Robert Browning, “Hero” by Foo Fighters.

Play Unit: Students will discuss the themes of jealousy, love, and friendship as they read William Shakespeare’s *Othello*.

Class novel: Students will discuss literary elements and parts of a story as they examine the themes in *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Texts are subject to change.

Students should check Mrs. Vushaj’s Schoology and PowerSchool portals for assignments as classwork and homework will be posted on the day it is assigned. Students, parents, and guardians should feel free to email me at [lvushaj@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:lvushaj@yonkerspublicschools.org) with any questions.