

Syllabus, 2018–2019
Classic Works of the Imagination

Tentative Speech Night Date: Friday, 6:30 p.m., May 24, 2019

The date will be confirmed in October. Please contact me immediately if this date conflicts with another scheduled event or if you know that your child will not be able participate in Speech Night.

Book Report

Book report books may be chosen from the list in Appendix A of the textbook.

September 7

Assignment 1

Oral Tradition of fairy tale and archetypes; common elements in fairy tales, Gothic, mystery, science fiction, etc.; literary term: freudian analysis.

Read Fairy Tales and Fables: Aesop, Grimm, Bulfinch and Anderson

September 14

Assignment 2

Allegories; fable as an allegory of totalitarianism; lecture on Marx by R.C. Sproul

Read Orwell's essay "Shooting and Elephant"; Orwell's *Animal Farm*, chapters 1–3

September 21

Assignment 3

Fable as an allegory of propaganda and violence; Stalin, "On the Death of Lenin"; comparison between Snowball's speech and Stalin's; WW II propaganda posters; advertising slogans

Read and "Politics and the English Language"; Orwell's *Animal Farm*, chapters 4–7; Goebbels' propaganda; Nazi Propaganda Pamphlet

September 28

Assignment 4

Fable as history of Communism; Fable and a study of Language

Finish Orwell, *Animal Farm*, chapters 8–10; Marx, *Communist Manifesto*; Newspeak in 1984

October 5

Assignment 5

Test on Animal Farm; the Origin of Gothic; the English disdain for Gothic; early American Gothic: The Puritan Tradition of allegory and emblem.

Read Hawthorne's "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment" and "Edward Randolph's Portrait," and Poe's "The Raven"

October 12

Assignment 6

The use of the ghost as a symbol in classic literature; the journalistic approach in Gothic literature; Defoe's biography

Read Defoe, Thackeray and de Maupassant

October 19*Assignment 7*

Gothic as religious and moral allegory; John Bunyan's biography.
Read Bunyan's "The Valley of the Shadow of Death," Hawthorne's journal entry.

October 26*Assignment 8*

Read Kafka's "Hunger Artist," Bronte's "The Red-Room," Dickens' "Miss Havisham," and Mary Shelley's "The Creation of Frankenstein."

November 2*Assignment 9*

Tennyson's life and works
Read *Gareth and Lynette*

November 9*Assignment 10*

Tennyson's life and works
Read *Gareth and Lynette*

November 16*Assignment 11*

Read Lewis Carroll, Jonathan Swift, and Edgar Rice Burroughs in your reader and answer the questions in your study guide; write dramatic monologue or speech.

November 24**Thanksgiving Break****November 31***Assignment 12*

The fantasy genre: comparisons between fantasy/adventure and other genres; fantasy as an allegory of political history
Read Carroll, Swift, and Burroughs; revise speech

December 7*Assignment 13*

Science fiction writing as commentary on politics, society, theology, economics, and human nature.
Read Lowe, Pangborn, Ferlaine and Dempsey.

December 14*Assignment 14*

Read Brown, Bova, and Wells' "The Star."

December 21

Christmas Break

December 28

Christmas Break

January 4

Assignment 15

TBA

January 11

Assignment 16

TBA

January 18

Assignment 17

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*, Chapters 1–10.

January 25

Assignment 18

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*, Chapters 11–20.

February 1

Assignment 19

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*, chapters 21–30.

February 8

Assignment 20

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*, chapters 31–45.

February 15

Assignment 21

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*, chapters 45–end.

February 22

Assignment 22

The possibility of time travel; Gothic elements in science fiction

Read *The Time Machine*, chapters 1–2; watch video clip of scientist explaining his work on time travel. Write the first body paragraph of your critical essay on *Great Expectations*.

March 1

Assignment 23

The idea of evolution in science fiction; science fiction and political allegory

Read Wells, *Time Machine*, chapters 3–4; watch *Time Machine* clip. Listen to Orson Wells' Radio Production of *War of the Worlds*.

March 8

Assignment 24

Read Wells, *Time Machine*, chapters 5–8

March 15

Assignment 25

Read Wells, *Time Machine*, chapters 9–end.

March 22

Assignment 26

Read Arthur Conan Doyle's "Red-Headed League" and "Adventure of the Speckled Band";
Ayn Rand, *Anthem*

March 29

William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act 1

April 5

Assignment 26

William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act 2

April 12

Assignment 27

William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act 3

April 19

Assignment 28

Easter Break

April 26

Assignment 29

William Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act 4 and 5

May 3

Assignment 30

Prepare for Speech Night

May 10

Assignment 31

Prepare for Speech Night

May 17

Assignment 32

Speech Night

Prepare for Comprehensive Test

May 24

Comprehensive Test

May 31

Comprehensive Test