

## Middle School English A

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[JennieCreatesClasses.com/MS-English-A](http://JennieCreatesClasses.com/MS-English-A)

### I have two primary goals for this class:

- to teach students how to analyze works of fiction for prominent elements, such as genre, context, structure, plot, character development, voice, point of view, conflict, theme, etc., and,
- to teach them how to write academic essays in MLA format

We'll read seven books this year and a handful of short stories (which I provide). The books are listed in order on the class page, which I highly recommend bookmarking in your browser. Students should check the page Friday, or certainly by Monday, so they know what's due the following week.

Students DO NOT need to bring their novels to class. They DO need to bring their *MLA Handbook* with them, however. I prefer the 7th edition, but the 8th is also fine.

### There are four primary elements to this class:

**1) Assigned reading:** It is imperative that students complete the assigned reading each week. Since all other elements of this class are born out of the texts, the rest will suffer if they don't keep up.

**2) Reading Quizzes:** Instead of taking quizzes in class, all quizzes will be online and posted on the class page. Please make sure your student has taken the quiz before the next class meeting. It would be unfair to discuss the book in class and then take the quiz late.

**3) Academic essays and a Shakespeare project:** Students will write two essays in the fall and one in the spring, along with a one-page Shakespeare project that we'll discuss further in January.

**4) End-of-Semester tests:** These tests will be *open notes* and cover literary elements, plot points, authors, and MLA format. The tests will be taken at home.

Below is a tentative schedule of assignments. If I see the need to slow down or change course, I'll amend the schedule and let everyone know.

Fall 2020	In Class	Homework
1 Aug. 20	Introduction; Intro to <i>Wonderstruck</i> and MLA format	Read Part One of <i>Wonderstruck</i> ; Quiz; Complete online worksheet on MLA format
2 Aug. 27	Discussion; Intro to the five-paragraph essay	Read Part Two of <i>Wonderstruck</i> ; Quiz; Complete online worksheet on MLA format

3 Sept. 3	Discussion; how to outline; Essay No. 1	Read Part Three of <i>Wonderstruck</i> ; Quiz; Draft an outline of your paper and email it to me <b>by Tuesday, Sept. 8</b>
4 Sept. 10	Discussion; Feedback on outlines; MLA exercise	Write the rough draft of Essay No 1 and email to me <b>by Tuesday, Sept. 15</b>
5 Sept. 17	Intro to <i>Holes</i> ; MLA exercise	Read Ch. 1-15 in <i>Holes</i> ; Quiz; Edit and submit the second draft of your essay <b>by Tuesday, Sept. 22</b>
6 Sept. 24	Discussion	Read Ch. 16-32 in <i>Holes</i> ; Quiz; Submit final essay <b>by Tuesday, Sept. 29</b>
7 Oct. 1	Discussion	Read Ch. 33-50 in <i>Holes</i> ; Quiz
8 Oct. 8	Discussion	No homework
9 Oct. 22	Intro to <i>The Night Gardener</i> ; MLA exercise	Read Part One of <i>The Night Gardener</i> ; Quiz
10 Oct. 29	Discussion	Read Part Two of <i>The Night Gardener</i> ; Quiz
11 Nov. 5	Discussion	Read Part Three of <i>The Night Gardener</i> ; Quiz
12 Nov. 12	Discussion; In-class writing prompt on <i>wants vs. needs</i>	Write the rough draft of your paper and email it to me <b>by Tuesday, Nov. 17</b>
13 Nov. 19	Rough drafts discussed; MLA review	Edit Essay No. 2 and submit the final copy <b>by Tuesday, Dec. 8</b>
14 Dec. 3	Intro to <i>Breadwinner</i> ; In-class activity about Afghanistan	Read Ch. 1-7 in <i>The Breadwinner</i> ; Quiz
15 Dec. 10	Discussion	Read Ch. 8-15 in <i>The Breadwinner</i> ; Quiz; Take the semester test online <b>by Wednesday, Dec. 16</b>
16 Dec. 17	Extra credit game	No homework

NO CLASS: October 15 (fall break) or November 26 (Thanksgiving)