



Syllabus

English 1-2, First Semester

Teachers: Sarah Mathews, Paul Wilkinson

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Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to English 1-2 and a challenging and rewarding semester. We will focus on the different genres within English Language Arts. The course will include an introduction to novels, short stories, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Emphasis is placed on the study of theme, plot, character, conflict, and stylistic devices. We have the opportunity to practice and improve how we write and speak about fiction and non-fiction as we enjoy a variety of materials and achieve the California English Language Arts Standards. To achieve and exceed these standards, we will work hard at reading, writing, talking, and listening to help students excel in college, in the workplace, and in civil society.

From the Mira Mesa web site (<http://www.sandi.net/miramesa>), you should already know that Ms. Mathews attended Mira Mesa High School, earned Bachelor's degrees in English and Psychology from UCLA, earned a Master's in Education from the University of San Diego, and has taught graduate level education classes. Mr. Wilkinson is a graduate of Santa Ana High School, Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, and the Pepperdine University School of Law. After careers as a news reporter, lawyer, and congressional staff member, and appointments in two presidential administrations, he returned to California for the challenge of teaching. Ms. Mathews is supervising Mr. Wilkinson as he pursues his California teaching credential.

We look forward to learning more about every student. Meanwhile, following are some important things to know and to do as we prepare for a great semester.

Sincerely,

Sarah Mathews

Paul Wilkinson

Books

Text: *McDougal-Littell Literature*

Supplemental: (subject to change) *The Pearl, The Odyssey, The Glass Castle, and Romeo and Juliet*

Supplies

In class each day, students must have:

- A daily planner or calendar
- At least two pens with black ink
- Plenty of lined, three-hole punch notebook paper
- A three-ring binder with at least one inch of capacity

- At least two highlighters of different colors
- Small sticky notes
- An independent reading book and notebook

Neatly handwritten assignments, word processed, and printed documents should be submitted electronically or on clean, undamaged white paper.

Procedures

Students not in assigned seats when the bell rings are tardy or absent. Failure to bring necessary supplies results in lower academic or citizenship grades or detention. The privilege of using the restroom during class time will be limited if abused.

Academic Integrity

Work completed for this class must be each student's own. Cheating or plagiarizing results in a zero and a U in citizenship.

Absences

You should attend class each day unless ill. If you are absent on the day an assignment is due or a test is taken, you are expected to turn in work immediately upon your return. You must be prepared to take missed tests the day you return and are responsible to arrange a makeup test if you do not take the test immediately upon return.

Homework includes vocabulary, grammar, and independent reading. Students are expected to do most independent reading and work on major writing assignments outside class. Late work is not accepted unless prior arrangements have been agreed upon.

Grading

You will receive a progress report every six weeks and a cumulative grade each semester. The final grade is comprised of:

Writing	50%
Reading	40%
Speaking	10%

Final grades are based on this scale:

90-100 = A	80-89 = B	70-79 = C
60-69 = D	0-59 = F	

Support

Please make arrangements with Mr. Wilkinson or Ms. Mathews for additional help. They are available before school, during lunch, and after school.

Online Grade Access

Students and parents should frequently check grades on Zangle.

Citizenship

Citizenship grades will follow the Mira Mesa High School citizenship rubric found in the MMHS Student Handbook. The maximum possible citizenship grade will be determined by attendance and adjusted based on contributions to class discussion, bringing all necessary assignments to class, being on time, and treating others and ourselves with respect. Electronics may only be used with teacher consent. Working independently without redirection, active participation in group work and discussion, listening to differing opinions with open minds, and allowing others to work undisturbed are all required parts of citizenship.

Parents and students: Please contact us anytime to discuss questions or concerns. The best way to reach us is by email, pwilkinson@sandi.net or smathews@sandi.net.

Please return this page to class. Thank you.

Accountability Contract

My signature below indicates I have read and understand the policies and rules of this class and will do my best to fulfill the requirement and expectations.

Student Accountability Contract

I have read and understand the syllabus for English 1-2. I will do my best to fulfill the requirements of the course and the expectations of my teachers.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Class Period _____

E-mail address: _____

Parent Contract of Support

I have read the syllabus for English 1-2 and have discussed the course requirements and class expectations with my student. I pledge to support my student to fulfill these requirements and expectations.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____

Work Phone: (_____) _____

Mobile Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail address: _____

I prefer to be contacted by: _____