

# High School Literature: Survey of Literary Genres

*Grades 9-11*  
Course Syllabus  
2026-2027

## Course Objectives:

- Develop higher level thinking skills that allow students to think beyond the text
- Analyze components of literature such as plot, character, setting, climax, theme, conflict and resolution
- Learn how to engage with literature academically and creatively while further instilling a love for literature
- Learn how to analyze literature through the lens of history and Biblical truth
- Understanding how to recognize and craft important elements of literature
- Develop a general understanding for literature types, themes, and contexts
- Be able to engage and think creatively about literature

## Course Components:

- Pre-reading and post-reading activities
- Independent (or at home with family) reading assignments weekly (reading along with an audiobook, when available, is acceptable)
- Vocabulary development
- Comprehension work
- Literature discussions utilizing a variety of formats such as literature circles, interactive notebooking, etc.
- Literary analysis and interaction through various papers, projects, and presentations

This course is an exploration of literature genres and themes at an appropriate high school level. Students will complete one large project or paper at the end of each novel or compilation along with smaller assignments to aid in comprehension. Students should expect to read 7-8 novels (or compilation for poetry/short stories) over the course of the year. We will have some smaller readings assigned throughout the year both in class and at home. A large component of class will be engaging in dialogue about how literature, our world, culture, the Bible, etc. intersect and engage with each other.

## Course Materials:

- 7-8 novels or compilations offering a survey of literary genres
  - Books will be assigned at the lower grade(9th) reading level for at least the first semester. We will work up to some books labeled at a higher level by the end of the year. Independent novels should be chosen at each student's personal reading level.
  - Physical books are required. The brain processes reading the words on the page differently! Audio books are welcome to be used in conjunction with a physical copy. Reading aloud with your student is also encouraged.
  - Books are subject to change based on the individual class' needs. Ample time will be given to purchase if a book changes. I would advise only purchasing books a semester at a time in case we need to make adjustments to pacing or reading levels.
  - Fall Semester
    - *Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party* Ying Chang Compestine (272 pages)
    - *The Giver* by Lowis Lowry (190 pages)
  - Spring Semester
    - *The Pilgrim's Progress in Modern Language* edited by Daniel Frayer-Griggs ( 320 pages)
    - *Everything Sad is Untrue* by Daniel Nayeri ( 368 pages)
  - Students will work through units on poetry and short stories (possibly drama) with materials provided by Koinonia.
  - Students will read a biography on their own towards the end of fall semester and over winter break.
- A section in your binder to bring papers for the current novel back and forth to class ( or a folder if you prefer)
- Book tabs
- Pencil box with normal supplies