Ms. Selma's Grade 9 English Year Plan 2025-2026

Quarter 1: August 27 – November 3, 2025	Quarter 2: November 4, 2025 – January 19, 2026	Quarter 3: January 22 – March 20, 2026	Quarter 4: March 21 – June 11, 2026
Grade 9 English Honors			
Unit 1: Epic Journeys – *The Odyssey* **Essential Question:** What makes someone a hero? **Texts:** • Homer's *The Odyssey* ○ "Sailing from Troy" ○ "The Lotus Eaters" ○ "The Cyclops" ○ "The Land of the Dead" ○ "The Sirens; Scylla and Charybdis" ○ "The Cattle of the Sun God" ○ "Twenty Years Gone" ○ "Argus" ○ "The Suitors" ○ "Penelope" ○ "The Challenge"	**Unit 3: Love, Fate, and Conflict – *Romeo and Juliet*** **Essential Question:** Are our lives determined by fate or by the choices we make? **Texts:** • William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* ○ Act 1 + Act 2, Scene 2 ("Balcony Scene") ○ Act 3 (Mercutio & Tybalt's Deaths) ○ Act 5 (Final Scene and Resolution) **Enhancement Readings/Lectures:** • Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* (Comparative moments) • Modern media excerpts exploring teenage love and impulsivity **Key Vocabulary:** sonnet, woo, enmity, fray, exile, banishment,	**Unit 5: Poetic Expression – Structure, Form & Voice** **Essential Question:** How do poets use structure and language to express powerful ideas? **Texts:** • *Annabel Lee* by Edgar Allan Poe • *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost • *Sonnet 130* by William Shakespeare • *I, Too* by Langston Hughes • Student-Selected Poem **Enhancement Readings/Lectures:** • Audio readings of poems • Poetry slam clips • Reflections on personal connections to poetry	**Unit 7: Final Project & Portfolio – Reflecting on Literature and Growth** **Essential Question:** How has literature shaped your thinking, writing, and identity this year? **Core Tasks:** • 📖 **Literary Reflection Essay:** Reflect on how one unit changed your thinking about identity, society, or human nature • 📚 **Short Response Collection:** Revise and compile 3 key short responses from the year • ✍️ **Creative Piece:** A poem, scene, or letter inspired by a character, theme, or text • 🎨 **Visual/Artistic Element:** An illustration, collage, object, or digital slide representing literary learning • 🎤 **Oral Presentation:** 3–5 minute defense of the

- "Odysseus' Revenge"
- "Penelope's Test"

Enhancement Readings/Lectures:

- *The Odyssey: A Graphic Novel* (Excerpts)
- Edna St. Vincent Millay's *An Ancient Gesture*
- Margaret Atwood's *Siren Song*

Key Vocabulary:
odyssey, valor, mutinous, guile, prophecy, maelstrom, questing, indifferent, hubris, cunning, restitution, adversity, equity, lavished, pliant, tremulous

Grammar Focus:
Parts of speech, sentence types, verb tense shifts, subject-verb agreement, pronoun-antecedent agreement, verbals and participles

Writing Genre:

- TEPAC Response: Odysseus as an Epic Hero
- Narrative Task: Retell from Polyphemus's POV
- Short Response: Internal vs. External Conflict
- Socratic Seminar + Close Reading Charts

dexterity, effeminate, sepulcher, scourge, ambiguity, calamity, tragedy, tomb, destiny

Grammar Focus:
Punctuation in dialogue, dependent vs. independent clauses, conjunctions, transitions

Writing Genre:

- Venn Diagram → Paragraph: Romeo vs. Juliet's Attitudes Toward Love
- CER: Is Romeo ruled by love or impulse?
- Comparative Essay: *Romeo and Juliet* vs. modern teen relationships

Unit 4: American Identity – *A Quilt of a Country* & *The Immigrant Contribution*

Essential Question:
What defines a national identity?

Texts:

- Anna Quindlen's *A Quilt of a Country*
- John F. Kennedy's *The Immigrant Contribution*

Enhancement Readings/Lectures:

- Julia Alvarez's *My English*
- Maya Angelou's *New Directions*
- Charts and visuals on American demographics and migration

Key Vocabulary:
discord, pluralistic, tolerance, inclusivity,

Key Vocabulary:
obsession, melancholy, metaphor, rhythm, parody, defiance, dignity, nuance, resonance, imagery, catharsis, taper, flourish, cadence, allusion

Grammar Focus:
Sentence fragments & run-ons, punctuation for effect (ellipses, dashes, parentheses), verb tense in poetry responses, shifts in tone, revision clarity, rhythm

Writing Genre:

- Analytical Paragraph: Mood & Theme
- Tone Comparison Paragraph
- Reflective Journal: "Poetry That Moved Me"
- Group Poem Performance + Commentary
- Final Task: Poetry Portfolio (1 Original Poem + Reflection)

Unit 6: Allegory & Meaning – Moral Lessons Through Fiction

Essential Question:
How do stories reveal truths about human nature and society?

Texts:

- *How Much Land Does a*

portfolio

Enhancement Readings/Lectures:

- Mentor texts from past students
- Samples of reflective writing and spoken word

Key Vocabulary:
identity, reflection, impact, journey, growth, insight, tone, creativity, revision, structure, presentation, synthesis, portfolio

Grammar Focus:
Subject-verb agreement, tense consistency, figurative language, capitalization and punctuation, conjunctions and transitions, final grammar review

Writing Genre:

- Literary Reflection Essay
- Creative Piece (Poem/Scene/Letter)
- Presentation Outline
- Final Portfolio Submission

- Short Essay: Odysseus's Transformation
- Final Epic Analysis Essay

Unit 2: Leadership & Betrayal – *Julius Caesar*

Essential Question:
How do ambition and persuasion shape a leader's legacy?

Texts:

- William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*
  - Act 1, Scenes 1–3
  - Act 2, Scenes 1–4
  - Act 3, Scenes 1–3
  - Act 4
  - Act 5

Enhancement Readings/Lectures:

- Historical background on the Roman Republic
- Comparative speeches: Brutus vs. Antony
- Scenes performed with dramatic interpretation

Key Vocabulary:
tribune, soothsayer, tyranny, insomniac, redress, augury, orator, rhetoric, coexistence, prosperity, assimilation, mosaic, synthesis, citation

Grammar Focus:
Punctuating embedded quotations, sentence variety, parallel structure, transitions, MLA citations and bibliography

Writing Genre:

- Guided Annotations + Claim/Evidence Chart
- Summary Paragraph: Author's Purpose and Message
- Visual-to-Text Analysis Chart
- Mini Informational Report with Chart
- Final Synthesis Report: "What Makes a National Identity?"

AERO Standards:

- **Reading Literature:** RL.1, RL.2, RL.3, RL.5
- **Reading Informational Text:** RI.1, RI.2, RI.3, RI.4
- **Writing:** W.2, W.4, W.7, W.9
- **Speaking & Listening:** SL.1
- **Language:** L.4, L.6
- **Literary Foundations:** LF.2

Man Need? by Leo Tolstoy

- *The Interlopers* by Saki (H. H. Munro)
- *The Bet* by Anton Chekhov (optional)

Enhancement Readings/Lectures:

- Documentary clips on land ownership and moral conflicts
- Mini research on greed, war, and survival stories

Key Vocabulary:
greed, ambition, boundary, interloper, truce, irony, reconciliation, captivity, wisdom, reflection, allegory, symbolism, philosophy, confinement

Grammar Focus:
Apostrophes (possessives vs. contractions), parallel structure, sentence variety and subordination, grammar review through editing

Writing Genre:

- Theme Paragraph: "Greed and Consequences"
- Character Sketch + Dialogue Rewrite
- Double-Entry Journals & Mini Research: "Modern

rhetoric, betrayal, downfall, parley, tragedy **Grammar Focus:** Subject-verb agreement, sentence combining, pronoun-antecedent agreement, rhetorical appeals, punctuation (colons, semicolons), transitions in essays **Writing Genre:** ● CER Paragraphs: ○ Is Caesar a strong or weak leader? ○ Should Brutus join the conspiracy? ○ Who gives the more effective speech—Brutus or Antony? ● Graphic Organizer: Calpurnia's warning ● Final CER Essay: Was Brutus a tragic hero? **AERO Standards:** ● **Reading Literature:** RL.1, RL.2, RL.3, RL.4 ● **Writing:** W.1, W.3, W.4, W.5 ● **Speaking & Listening:** SL.1 ● **Language:** L.4, L.5 ● **Literary Foundations:** LF.1, LF.2		Interlopers" ● Final Task: Allegory Synthesis Response **AERO Standards:** ● **Reading Literature:** RL.1, RL.2, RL.4, RL.5 ● **Writing:** W.2, W.4, W.7, W.10 ● **Language:** L.3, L.4 ● **Literary Foundations:** LF.1, LF.2 **AERO Standards:** ● **Reading Literature & Informational Text:** RL.1, RL.2, RI.2 ● **Writing:** W.4, W.5, W.9, W.10 ● **Speaking & Listening:** SL.4 ● **Language:** L.1, L.2, L.3	