

# Syllabus

## English 9A

### Course Overview

English is the study of the creation and analysis of literature written in the English language. In English 9A, you will study a variety of techniques to improve your reading comprehension and writing skills. The instruction covers many types of writing: creative, descriptive, expository, narrative, and persuasive. In English 9A, you will read and analyze literature in different genres as well as practice skills related to good study habits. You will sharpen your writing skills as you evaluate literary works with regard to literary technique, form, and theme.

### Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will:

- Recognize what is expected of a high school student and evaluate your current academic skills.
- Do a close reading of fiction and nonfiction texts.
- Explore the structure, basic characteristics, and elements of fiction.
- Examine the significance and role of genre in *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* and analyze the novella's symbols.
- Investigate the characteristics of a literary essay and identify the steps for writing about literature.
- Explore elements of poetry, including structure, sound patterns, and figurative language.
- Examine the life of Edgar Allan Poe and analyze theme, symbolism, and tone in his poem "The Raven."
- Investigate the history and characteristics of epic poetry and epic similes.
- Explore the historical context, themes, and structures of *The Odyssey* and the characteristics of the epic hero.

### General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs presentation.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

## Credit Value

English 9A is a 0.5-credit course.

## Course Materials

- notebook
- pencils or ink pens
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Some course readings may require a visit to your school library or public library.

## Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you keep on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

### Unit 1: Introduction to High School Academics

#### Summary

The focus of this unit is to prepare you for the expectations and challenges of the work expected of you in this course. You will be introduced to important reading and comprehension skills and will be encouraged to evaluate your current academic skills as you explore skills such as study habits and time management. You will then learn how to do a close reading of fiction texts and nonfiction texts. At the end of the unit, you will evaluate your current writing strategies and explore high-level writing strategies.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 1	<b>Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation</b> <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
6 days: 2–7	<b>Who Are You as a Student?</b> <i>Recognize what is expected of a high school student and evaluate your current academic skills.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 8–13	<b>Fiction: Doing a Close Reading</b> <i>Explore how to do a close reading of a fiction text.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 14–19	<b>Nonfiction: Doing a Close Reading</b> <i>Explore how to do a close reading of a nonfiction text.</i>	Lesson

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
6 days: 20–25	<b>Developing a Writing Strategy</b> <i>Evaluate your current writing strategy and investigate other strategies to prepare for higher-level writing.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 26–29	<b>Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 1</b>	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 30	<b>Posttest—Unit 1</b>	Assessment

## Unit 2: Short Stories and Novels

### Summary

In this unit you will be introduced to the short story and the novel and will build on your close reading and academic writing skills. First you will explore the structure and characteristics of fiction. Next you will analyze literary elements as you read Richard Connell’s short story “The Most Dangerous Game.” You will also analyze themes, figurative language, and genre in as you read Leo Tolstoy’s novella *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*. At the end of the unit, you will study the characteristics of literary essays and the steps involved in writing about literature.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 31–34	<b>Elements of Fiction</b> <i>Explore the structure and basic characteristics of fiction.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 35–38	<b>“The Most Dangerous Game”</b> <i>Analyze the literary elements of Richard Connell’s short story “The Most Dangerous Game.”</i>	Lesson
5 days: 39–43	<b><i>The Death of Ivan Ilyich</i>, Chapters 1–4</b> <i>Examine the life of Leo Tolstoy and analyze the tone and historical context of his novella The Death of Ivan Ilyich.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 44–48	<b><i>The Death of Ivan Ilyich</i>, Chapters 5–8</b> <i>Examine figurative language, connotative language, and theme in The Death of Ivan Ilyich.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 49–53	<b><i>The Death of Ivan Ilyich</i>, Chapters 9–12</b> <i>Explore the significance and role of genre in The Death of Ivan Ilyich and analyze the novella’s symbols.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 54–57	<b>Writing about Literature</b> <i>Investigate the characteristics of a literary essay and identify the steps for writing about literature.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 58–61	<b>Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 2</b>	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 62	<b>Posttest—Unit 2</b>	Assessment

## Unit 3: Poetry

### Summary

In this unit, you will examine elements of poetry such as structure, sound patterns, and figurative language. You will read and analyze the themes and symbols in Edgar Allan Poe’s poem “The Raven.” Then you will study the history and characteristics of epic poetry and apply this knowledge as you do a close reading of Homer’s epic poem *The Odyssey*. Finally, you will analyze themes and structure in *The Odyssey* and study the effect of epic similes in the poem.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 63–66	<b>Elements of Poetry</b> <i>Explore elements of poetry, including structure, sound patterns, and figurative language.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 67–71	<b>“The Raven”</b> <i>Examine the life of Edgar Allan Poe and analyze theme, symbolism, and tone in his poem “The Raven.”</i>	Lesson
3 days: 72–74	<b>Epics</b> <i>Investigate the history and characteristics of epic poetry.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 75–79	<b>The Odyssey, Books 9 and 12</b> <i>Explore the historical context of The Odyssey and the characteristics of the epic hero.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 80–83	<b>The Odyssey, Books 13, 21, and 24</b> <i>Analyze the themes and structures of The Odyssey and examine the effect of the epic simile.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 84–87	<b>Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 3</b>	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 88	<b>Posttest—Unit 3</b>	Assessment
1 day: 89	<b>End-of-Semester Review</b>	
1 day: 90	<b>End-of-Semester Test</b>	Assessment