

Sophomore English

Mrs. Aimee Downer

Room D5

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Office Hours: First Lunch or by Appointment

“A book is a part of life, a manifestation of life, just as much as a tree or a horse or a star. It obeys its own rhythms, its own laws, whether it be a novel, a play, or a diary. The deep, hidden rhythm of life is always there, that of the pulse, the heart beat.”

[Henry Miller](#) (1891-1980) American author.

General Objectives- This year we will go on a journey together to read novels, short stories, and articles. The objective is not to merely read, but to uncover the heart beat within the text. You will learn to identify the pulse, analyze it, then make a deeper connection with it through discourse and writing. Students should expect to develop fluency in writing; develop and practice verbal skills; read and analyze a variety of literature; develop effective study and organizational skills; develop research skills. Students will be taught with the rigor necessary to prepare them for college and 21st Century careers.

Texts- The main text is Holt’s *Literature and Language Arts* along with *Warriner’s Handbook* for Grammar. Other texts are in the form of novels and a play, possibilities include *Ender’s Game*, *Things Fall Apart*, *A Separate Peace*, and *Sugar Changed the World*. Additionally, students will use writing modules produced by ERWC (Expository Reading and Writing Course) and read articles from a program called Newsela. Grammar will be taught directly and also through an online program called NoRedInk.com

Materials- Three-ring binder, loose-leaf college-ruled notebook paper, composition notebook (to be kept in the classroom), black/blue pens, pencils, highlighters, and post-its.

Course Requirements- BUSD and California policy dictate that a student must pass each semester with a minimum of 60% (D-) in order to receive credit for that semester. All students must successfully pass all eight semesters of English. A-G requirements hold that students must earn 70% or higher in a class for the credit to be eligible for A-G credit.

Class Expectations:

- *Arrive to class punctually.
- *Have all necessary materials.
- *Turn in assignments on time.
- *Work to the best of your ability.
- *Avoid behavior that impairs your own or others’ academic achievement.
- *Keep all electronic devices OFF unless and until permission is given otherwise.
- *Show respect for the knowledge and authority of teachers, administrators, substitutes, and other school employees.
- *Practice kindness, patience, honesty, and good manners.**

Tardy Policy- Students are expected to arrive to class on time. Students who are tardy will be marked as such. Students who are excessively tardy will owe the teacher extra time during brunch. Tardiness affects the entire class, not just the person who is tardy, and therefore is not tolerated.

Make-up Work- Students who are absent should be mindful that make-up work is their responsibility and not the teacher’s. **Also, students should do the following: check the class website, email the**

teacher, see the teacher during her office hours. I will not discuss make-up work with individuals during class time. See the BHS English Department Grading Policy for further details.

Discipline Policy- Practice the class expectations as listed above. Should action be necessary due to a student breaching the expectations, the following will occur:

1. Redirection by the teacher.
2. Conversation/Warning from the teacher.
3. Detention and parent communication.
4. Discipline Referral.

Please recognize that some offenses may warrant an immediate referral. Please strive to follow the expectations and avoid any unpleasantness. Remember, a happy teacher means a happy class.

Honor Code- Academic honesty and integrity are key in the educational environment. While there are times when group or pair work is called for, much of the work completed for a grade is individual. The grade is for the student to assess what the student knows, not someone else. Do not undermine my trust in you! Once gone, it is very difficult to regain.

Plagiarism- Plagiarism is presenting another person's ideas as one's own. This occurs through the deliberate attempt to pass off another person's work as one's own (by copying or by improperly using technology) OR by failure to acknowledge and cite sources through proper documentation. Both types of plagiarism are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. Always turn in your own original work and follow your teacher's directions for citation. Consequences for plagiarism are outlined in the BHS English Department Grading Policy.

Grades- Please note that I do not discuss grades during or between classes. Please see me during office hours to do so or communicate via email. Additionally, keep in mind that student work is evaluated on the quality and accuracy of the product. I will strive to keep Illuminate updated regularly. At least once a week a new grade will be entered. Late work will not be graded or entered until after regular work is graded and entered.

Beaumont High English Department Grading Policy-

All work will fall into one of the three following categories and the corresponding percentages-

Practice	40%
Product	40%
Assessment	20%

Late Work: Students who turn in work that falls under "practice" late will have one week to turn in the grade and still earn 75% credit of the earned score (if the grade was a 100, you would receive a 75). The second week students would earn 50% credit of the earned score. **No work will be accepted after the second week.**

Work that falls under the "product" category is more substantial and is the result of class time and independent work time, ie a paper or technology piece. These **major works will be docked 10% per day late. Students are encouraged to turn in ALL work on time.**

Grades: Students will earn grades on a scale of 0-4. They are similar to the following:

4	A
3	B
2	C
1	D
0	F

On occasion, the teacher may use a .5 as in, 2.5, if it is necessary. Grades will be "converted" to this scale and entered into Illuminate in this manner. The averages of these numbers will still then be converted to A-F for report cards and progress reports.

