

# DR. HASLAM'S GRIZZLY CREATIVE WRITING



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I'm available before and after school for conferences.

This class is designed for writers. Or perhaps, this class is for artists seeking to put their art into words. That is what we will do all year: make art with words. Students will write novels, plays, short stories, poems, news articles, and as many different forms of writing as we can fit into the year.

Each unit will focus on one particular writing project, culminating in a portfolio quality piece completed by each student. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate with others on some projects, but the vast majority of work will be done individually.

Students will be using Canvas to turn most of their assignments. Students should have their notifications set to receive alerts when the instructor sends announcements for the course.

Required Materials	Rules
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Composition Notebook</li><li>2. Blue or Black Pen</li><li>3. Art Paper &amp; Basic Art Supplies</li><li>4. Imagination</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Be in your seat at the bell.</li><li>2. Be ready to write at the bell.</li><li>3. Be quiet after the bell.</li><li>4. Don't prevent teaching.</li><li>5. Don't prevent learning.</li></ol>

Breaking rules may result in a warning, conference, or office referral.

## Grading & Assignments

Letter grades will be determined on the following scale:

93 – 100 = A  
90 – 92 = A-  
88 – 89 = B+  
83 – 87 = B  
80 – 82 = B-  
78 – 79 = C+

73 – 77 = C  
70 – 72 = C-  
68 – 69 = D+  
63 – 67 = D  
60 – 62 = D-  
0 – 59 = F

I will follow the standard CHHS Grading Scale for this class. Be advised however, that major projects will sometimes cover up to a third of a student's grade. Portfolio pieces must be completed if a student is to pass. The remainder of the grade will consist of journal entries, short writing assignments, and artistic creations.

Students need to be in class every day and they need to turn their work in when it is due. I will be enforcing the Copper Hills attendance policy. If students miss three or more days of class, they will receive a NO GRADE, regardless of their performance in class.

**Notebooks - Journals:** Students will be required to keep a notebook of the daily writing prompts that we will be doing in class. This should be a separate binder from all other classes because it will be turned in. Aside from participation grades, and the portfolio piece, this notebook will be worth the most points and can make or break a student's grade. I will check notebooks every quarter. When turned in, notebooks should be organized and complete with prompts and notes taken in class.

100% of a student's basic grade will come from the following:

- Individual projects
- Writing prompts in composition notebook.
- Required assignment presentation (includes reading or speaking in front of the class.

-If the teacher is absent, NO work should be turned in to the substitute.

- Student information, work, and grades will be kept confidential and will not be shared without the necessary authorization as per FERPA Regulations.
- **Dress Code:** Jordan District Dress Code Policy will be enforced.

**Electronic Devices:** Cell phones are a distraction and will prevent learning if used when I'm teaching the class. If students are given time to work on an assignment, or there is classwork to be done, I expect students to stay off their phones. If the phone becomes an issue, you will receive a warning, followed by the phone then being taken and given to the administration. If you have an emergency and have to take a call, just let me know and you can step into the hall. You may listen to music while working on regular assignments, but if I see your phone during a test, it will be taken and you will take a zero on the test.

**Restroom/Water Fountain Use:** Students are expected to take care of this business on their own time between classes. I do understand, however, that occasional emergency situations will present themselves. We have a hall pass for this. Abuse of hall pass use will result in possible limitation of excusal from class.

**Food and Drink:** With the exception of water in a closed container, no drinks should be brought into my classroom. I will allow the occasional snack for students to stay alert as long as they don't make a mess and students clean up after themselves. Particular care must be taken around laptops.

**Communication: PARENTS & STUDENTS!!** – Please communicate with me! Visit my website or send me an email (refer to the top of this document). And please do it ahead of time. If a printer is broken or something will prevent your student from getting their work done, let me know ahead of time so that I can grade them fairly. Communication after something is due will not suffice.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism on any assignment will result in a zero on that particular assignment and no room will be given to make it up.

**Events:** Students will be required to attend poetry readings or other approved events once every quarter. The City Arts Program at the Salt Lake Public Library will be one of a few options for students, but I will also be open to suggestions. Students will be expected to provide proof of attendance and report to the class.

**Classwork:** There is only so much that we can accomplish in one semester. One semester is not long enough to explore all the realms of creative writing. Therefore, we will focus on two main areas of creative writing, poetry and fiction.

**Poetry:** Students will spend the first half of the semester learning the basics of and the formulas for many forms of poetry. Students will write prompts in their notebooks, will learn a form of poem, and will then be expected to create an example of each that they learn. These poems, in addition to others will be compiled into the poetry portfolio, which will be submitted at the end of the first quarter of the semester.

**Fiction:** Students will spend the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the semester creating a 13,000-word novella. Students will learn to build and strengthen affective characters, plotlines, conflicts, and storylines. Students will have the entire remaining quarter to craft their novellas. They will critique others and be critiqued in a circular, Socratic classroom scenario.

# CREATIVE WRITING CONTRACT

Parent's Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

We have read Dr. Haslam's disclosure statement and understand that it is our responsibility to contact Dr. Haslam via phone or email if we should have any questions or concerns. We also understand the rules of the Dr. Haslam's Class and understand that he will follow fair and necessary protocol in making sure his policies are adhered to.

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# MOVIES & BOOKS

The best writers are great readers. Therefore, Creative Writing Students will be doing independent reading during portions of the class. Students will be bringing these books to class and should be approved by their parents before doing so.

We will be watching films in class that directly relate to the curriculum and often deal with specific types of writing. These films have PG-13 and Not Rated Ratings. Movies include: *Dead Poet's Society*, *Finding Forrester*, *The Freedom Writer's*, *The Great Debater's*, *The Cove*, *The Lord of the Rings/Hobbit*, *Series of Unfortunate Events*.

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to read the book(s) that he/she brings to class for independent reading.

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to watch PG-13 and Not Rated films that directly relate to the curriculum that Dr. Haslam has presented in class.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_