

Language Arts 9 - Honors

Ms. Cox | Dixie Middle School | 2026-2027

Welcome to Honors English!

I am excited to begin another year exploring literature, writing, and building critical thinking skills with you. This class is designed for students who want to grow as readers, writers, and thinkers. Honors Language Arts is a fast-paced, rigorous course that requires students to read assigned texts outside of class, meet deadlines, work independently, and maintain excellent attendance and behavior. Students will read more challenging literature, complete advanced assignments, and develop higher-level thinking and analytical skills. Because of the increased rigor, grading standards are more demanding, so don't expect to get 100% on all assignments just for turning them in.

Course Communication

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Grade Composition

Category	Weight
Classwork	30%
GVC Assessments	70%

Class Materials

- You will need a **3 ring binder** for notes—1 inch will be fine OR you can use a bigger binder and combine with other classes (binder checks required→big pts)
- Pen/Pencil

Homework?→ Yes

- Students will have additional reading assignments outside of class (usually once a week).
- Read their own book 20 minutes a day (it should be something they enjoy reading)

Meet your Teacher: Ms. Cox



This will be my 8th year teaching at Dixie Middle, and 9th grade has always been my favorite grade to teach.

I grew up in Castle Dale, Utah, and have always enjoyed learning, reading, and going on adventures. I love reading in all genres, but Mystery is one of my favorites.

Before becoming a teacher, I proudly served in the 19th Special Forces Group Support Company with the Army National Guard as an Imagery Analyst, including a deployment to Kuwait in 2002. That experience taught me the importance of discipline, perseverance, teamwork, and maintaining high standards—values I bring into my classroom every day.

I believe every student is capable of growth. I set high expectations because I know students can meet them, and I will always do everything I can to help them succeed. If you are willing to ask questions, work hard, and treat others with respect, we will have an outstanding year together.



Course Studies

- Narrative writing
- Independent reading
- Academic discussions
- Short Stories
- Literary Analysis
- Informational and argument writing
- Research and MLA Citation
- Poetry and figurative language

Texts

Q1: Short Stories

- "The Princess and the Tin Box"
- "The Necklace"
- "The Interlopers"
- "Fish Cheeks"
- "The Sniper"
- Additional Selections

Q2: Fahrenheit 451 + related articles

Q3: Miles Morales: Shock Waves, The Crossover, and one more (TBD) + related articles

Q4: The Outsiders + related articles

**Selections may change based on class needs

"Literature adds to reality, it does not simply describe it." — C.S. Lewis

Procedures, Expectations, etc

Procedures and Expectations

Be prepared

- Turn in assignments on time
- Check Canvas daily
- Check email for messages

Participate in class daily

- Work hard and keep trying—don't give up
- Bring required materials to class (pencil, binder, etc.)
- Ask questions, **Ask 3 before me!**
- Limit distractions (including with technology)

Be respectful and understanding of classmates and me

- Listen when others are speaking
- Stay in your assigned seat
- Conduct yourself appropriately

Additional Policies

- **NO PHONES** - school policy
- **No eating** in class (you guys are messy :)
- **Respect**= kindness/thoughtfulness
- **Headphones** — With permission only. They may be used only during designated work times, AND must be plugged into your Chromebook.

Consequences

If a student chooses not to meet these expectations:

- ☐ **Verbal Warning**
- ☐ **Seat Change and Parent Contact**
- ☐ **Administrative Referral**

Absent and Late Work

- ★ **If you are absent from class, YOU are responsible for making up any missing work. Everything we do in class is on Canvas.**
 - You will have an extension equal to the days you were absent to make up the work without a late penalty.
- ★ Assignments may be submitted after the due date until the 2 cutoffs each quarter (midterm and the end of the quarter).
- ★ Late assignments will receive a deduction of 3% a day to a maximum/minimum of 70%.

Plagiarism→Proof of Authorship:

Just don't. Seriously. Your work is expected to be **your own, original thinking and writing.**

Plagiarism—including copying from the internet, using another student's work, or using AI to generate all or part of an assignment without permission—will not be tolerated. **If you used AI, copied/pasted it, or took someone else's ideas and presented them as your own, it is plagiarism.** The burden of proof is on the student; you may be asked to show drafts, version history, or demonstrate your understanding of the work in class.

Plagiarism will result in a **zero, parent contact, and a write-up.** At the teacher's discretion, a **first offense** may be redone using the student's original work for **up to 70% credit.** A **second offense will result in a permanent zero.** AI may be used only when specifically permitted by the teacher and must be acknowledged.

"Your work. Your voice. Your thinking. Own it."

I have read and understand the expectations, policies, and requirements for this course, and I agree to do my part to be successful.

Student Signature: _____