

**Novels**  
**Course Description**  
**Mrs. Cannon**

The goal of this course is to give you a solid English Language Arts foundation while getting you excited about reading. Young Adult Literature provides an opportunity to learn vital reading, writing, analytical, and reflective skills through the use of high interest literature. You will read four books of your own choosing over the course of the semester along with many non-fiction materials, such as book reviews and essays that relate to the themes within the books you are reading. There will be four writing assignments over the course of the semester: a narrative essay, a literary analysis, a reflective essay, and a multimedia presentation.

The course will consist of four themed units. The first unit will be an intense whole class study of the Autobiographical novel, *Always Running*, by Louis Rodriguez. For the final 3 units, you will choose a book to read for each unit by reading book reviews. In addition to whole group lessons, there will be individual and group projects due throughout the course as well as small group discussions and activities among students who are reading the same books. Each unit will last four weeks. The following is a breakdown of the individual units.

**Unit One: Always Running**

We will be studying theme, thinking critically through text, and literary terms. We will finish the unit with a test over the book and a thematic analysis outlining the Issue, Author's purpose, support, and outcome.

**Unit Two: War**

Students must read book reviews and choose one of the following books.

**Fiction book choices:** *Book Thief* by Markus Zusak; *Bloodtide* by Melvin Burgess; *Sunrise over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers; *The Painted Bird* by Jerzy Kosinski

**Non-Fiction book choices:** *Left for Dead*, Peter Nelson; *Maus I and II* by Art Spiegelman

**Project:**

Thematic Analysis paper.

**Unit Three: Coming of Age**

Students must read book reviews and choose one of the following books.

**Fiction book choices:** *One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies* by Sonya Sones; *Stop Pretending* by Sonya Sones; *What Happened to Cass McBride* by Gail Giles; *Sammy and Juliana in Hollywood* by Benjamin Alire Saenz; *Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky; *Easier Without* by K.C. Taylor; *Clay* by David Almond; *Divergent* by Veronica Roth; *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer; *What My Mother Doesn't Know/ What My Girlfriend Doesn't Know* by Sonya Sones; *Peeps* by Scott Westerfeld; *If I Stay* by Gail Forman; *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green

**Non-Fiction book choices:** *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer; *Annie's Baby: The Diary of Anonymous, a Pregnant Teenager* by Beatrice Sparks. **THE COLOR OF ABSENCE: 12 STORIES ABOUT LOSS AND HOPE** edited by James Howe;

**Project:**

Character Diaries

## **Unit Four: Social Justice**

Students must read book reviews and choose one of the following books.

**Fiction book choices:** Money Hungry by Sharon G. Flakes; Tyrell by Coe Booth; The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd; Incantation by Alice Hoffman; Hunger games by Suzanne Collins; Sold by Patricia McCormick; What's Left of Me by Kat Zhang; Romiette and Julio by Sharon Draper; The Golden Boy by Abigail Tarttelin; Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt

**Non-Fiction book choices:** Always Running by Luis Rodriguez; When I was a Slave, Norman Yetman.

### **Project:**

Reader's Theater

### **Classroom Expectations:**

1. Class will be extremely difficult if you do not bring the required materials **every day**. Please make sure to bring your notebook and writing utensils to every class period unless otherwise instructed. Consequences for not bringing your required materials are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense- warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- detention
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- detention and a call home
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense- office referral

2. Participation in class is expected on a daily basis. If a student is a few points away from a higher grade at the end of each grading period, I will take daily participation into account.
3. Respect everyone at all times. Disrespect and cruelty will result in a call home and an office referral on the **first offense**.
4. Respect the property within the class at all times. Damaging property will also result in a call home and office referral on the **first offense**.
5. Phone Usage: I have learned through experience with this class that students that have their phones out do significantly less work than students who do not access their phones. Therefore, this year I am not allowing phone usage in the classroom. I will collect your phones if I see them and return them to you at the end of class. You will receive 3 warnings and then the consequences will begin.

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> offence- warnings
- 4<sup>th</sup> offence- detention
- 5<sup>th</sup> offence- detention and a call home
- 6<sup>th</sup> offence- office referral

Please don't argue with me on this. It may seem harsh, but you'll be glad when you graduate from high school.

6. Be in the classroom when the bell rings. We have a lot to accomplish this year in a very short period of time. If you are late, you will receive the same consequences as the phone violation. (Look at rule number 1 & 5)
7. Hall passes will only be given at appropriate times (study times, before class begins, etc.). Don't raise your hand while I am teaching the class and ask to go to the restroom. The answer will be NO. You may ask me once the class begins working. Arguing with me about it will put you in the

hall until I'm finished with what I'm telling the class and you still won't go the restroom until I'm finished talking.

You will be given three bathroom passes that you can use in the semester. Use them wisely. If you have used up all of your passes, make sure you go to the restroom before coming to class because once they are gone, they are gone.

At the end of the semester, any unused passes will count for extra credit.

8. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. There is a binder on the counter next to the cabinets with the materials you missed inside. Go to the binder on the day of your return, find your class and the day you're looking for, write down the list of things we did and remove any handouts that are there for that day. **DO NOT** take the last copy. Ask me to make a copy for you if there is only one left.

You will have one week from the day of your return to turn in any missing work without penalty.