

**English 12: World Literature**  
Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School  
Spring 2014

Mrs. Brooke Hopkins  
[bhopkins@rabungap.org](mailto:bhopkins@rabungap.org)  
Cell phone: (714) 227-5636

**Course Objectives:**

This course is designed to give students a taste of literature and film from around the world. Multiple perspectives, themes, voices, movements, and commentaries will be examined, compared, discussed, reflected on, and written about. To do this, students will employ all language skills, including reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students will refine and utilize their research skills, and they will broaden their literary and critical vocabularies, while gaining an appreciation for the multitude of literary voices in our very diverse world.

**Essential Questions:**

- 1) What is a “happy ending”? How does the American version of a happy ending compare with other nations’?
- 2) How do themes in literature reflect our common AND diverse experiences as humans in this world?
- 3) Why must we be always be curious, questioning, and reflective?
- 4) How can words make us powerful?
- 5) How can resources and research tools empower us as lifelong learners?

**Reading List:**

Each student will be required to choose **one Choice Book** from this list to read as homework throughout the spring semester:

1. *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton (South Africa)
2. *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese (Ethiopia/USA)
3. *In The Woods* by Tana French (Ireland)
4. *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Colombia)
5. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak (Australia/Germany)
6. *The Farming of Bones* by Jamaica Kincaid (Caribbean)
7. *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien (England)
8. *The House of Spirits* by Isabel Allende (Chile)
9. *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini (Afghanistan/USA)
10. *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri (India/Bangladesh/USA)
11. *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich (Native American)
12. *Pao* by Kerry Young (China/Caribbean)

13. *Spring Awakening* by Frank Wedekind (Germany) AND *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen (Norway)  
14. *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy (Russia)

*Please note:*

Digital versions are NOT ok. You must have a published, paper version of this book to make citations easier. Our library features many of these books, so check with Mrs. McGee before you buy it.

You will **divide the book into fourths** using these dates as guidelines:

First  $\frac{1}{4}$ : Friday, February 21 (B and G)

Second  $\frac{1}{4}$ : Tuesday, March 18 (B) or Wednesday, March 19 (G)

Third  $\frac{1}{4}$ : Friday, April 4 (B and G)

Fourth  $\frac{1}{4}$ : Tuesday, April 23 (B) or Wednesday, April 24 (G)

**After each fourth of the book**, you will summarize and share your thoughts about that section of the book by choosing from a list of the following **assignment options**:

- 1) Write a 3 page (4 for honors) graphic short story summarizing the plot of that  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the book.
- 2) Record a 2 minute (3 for honors) podcast that summarizes that  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the book. You may also provide commentary.
- 3) Provide a COMPLETE list of characters that appear in that  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the book. For each main character, write a paragraph of details about that character; for each minor character, write 2-3 sentences. Honors students also provide one paragraph of prediction of how one or more of the main characters will change or grow throughout the rest of the book.
- 4) Write a 1-page (2 for honors) blog post that summarizes that  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the book. You may also provide commentary.
- 5) Do a bit of research about the author's life. Write  $\frac{3}{4}$  page (1 for honors) about your author, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  page ( $\frac{1}{2}$  for honors) connecting your author's life to that  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the book.
- 6) Do a bit of research about the country or region your book takes place in. Write  $\frac{3}{4}$  page (1 for honors) about that country or region, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  page ( $\frac{1}{2}$  page for honors) discussing how the country or region affects at  $\frac{1}{4}$  of your book.

*Please note:*

*You may only choose each option ONCE. Any of these may be done with a partner, but choose your partner wisely...you will only submit ONE assignment with BOTH names, and you will BOTH receive the same grade.*

**At the end of the term**, when you finish your choice book, you will turn in a final project on Friday May 2 (B and G) by choosing from this **list of projects**:

1) Write 3 pages double-spaced (4 for honors) of Fan Fiction (better known as Fan Fic) for your book. Go to [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fan\\_fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fan_fiction) for more information about what Fan Fiction is.

2) Make a 2 minute book trailer (3 for honors). Submit via YouTube or .mov file.

3) Make a book jacket (back and front cover design and text, inside front and back flap text, spine design and text). Honors students also write a 1-page review of the book that could be found in another book (used by publishers to advertise books).

4) Pretend you are a judge on the panel that's deciding who will win the Nobel Prize for Literature this year. Write a 2-page (3 for honors) double-spaced persuasive letter/essay to argue why you believe your book should win.

5) Pretend your book will be made into a movie. Choose the 10-song soundtrack and write one paragraph explanation for where each song will go and why. (Your finished product will have 10 songs and 10 paragraphs). Honors students choose 13 songs and write 13 paragraphs.

I **strongly** recommend choosing a book based on your interests, rather number of pages. Your homework will mostly consist of reading and analyzing *this* book, so take advantage of having this time to read something you'll really enjoy. *Tons* of genres, countries, writing styles and topics are featured on this list. Do some research online and *enjoy* your reading during your last semester of high school.

You will NOT be required to purchase ANY other books for this class. All other readings will be provided to you as we read them.

### **Grading and Calendar Policy:**

#### **Grade Breakdown:**

Discussion/Participation 30%

Formal Writing 30%

Homework 30%

Tests and Quizzes 10%

#### **Honors Credit:**

Students may choose to take this course for honors credit. Students taking this class for honors credit will be required to write the following five assignments with more depth and length:

Four choice book assignments

End of term choice book project

If you wish to take this class for honors credit, you must contact Mrs. Hopkins by Friday, February 7th.

**Jupiter and Google Calendar:**

EVERY effort will be made to make sure the class calendar and grades are kept up-to-date. Please stay up-to-date on these grading and scheduling tools as well.

**Lunch:**

We will always take early lunch. You do not want to deal with a hungry Mrs. Hopkins.

**Tardy Policy:**

Please make every effort to arrive to class on time. Students more than 15 minutes late without an excuse will be marked “unexcused absent,” per the school’s policy. This is a matter of mutual respect between the teacher and student. However, there are many valid reasons for students and the teacher to arrive late to class. Within reason, a tardy less than 15 minutes will be tolerated as long as the student arrives quietly with the correct materials (including homework). If tardies become a problem, the teacher and the student will discuss participation/discussion grade consequences should the behavior not improve.

**Submitting Work:**

**Editing Drafts:**

All non-final drafts must be double-spaced and submitted in paper form for ease of teacher editing.

**Final Drafts:**

Final drafts must be double-spaced, and may be submitted by sharing or emailing via the student’s Rabun Gap gmail account, or printed.

**Resubmissions:**

Student work may always be fixed, improved, and/or edited for an improved grade within the same semester. The amount of points that may be earned is up to teacher discretion, based on the type of assignment and the amount of time that has passed. The teacher will clearly outline the possible points before the student revises and/or resubmits work. In fact, resubmission opportunities will often be recorded on a student’s edited piece of work, next to the original grade given.

**Late Work:**

Every effort should be made to submit work on time, just as every effort will be made to return graded work promptly to the students. This is a matter of mutual respect between the teacher and student. However, there are many valid reasons for students to submit late work. Although deadlines are a very real part of life, and they must be respected, we must also realize that late work is a reality of life. Within

reason, when a student takes initiative to discuss late work BEFORE it is late, late work will be accepted, and credit will be given in full and partial form on a case-by-case basis. The teacher will clearly outline the credit possibilities during the preemptive conversation. Initiative, responsibility, and follow-through will be handsomely rewarded in cases of late work; abuse of this privilege and lack of follow-through will result in less teacher flexibility.

### **Cell Phone Policy:**

Cell phones and all other forms of technology (computers, tablets, translators) are INVALUABLE resources for students in an English class. They provide tools that I DO NOT want to take away. It is up to the student to ENSURE that he/she is using technology properly in class. Students who utilize technology that becomes distracting will have their privileges revoked IMMEDIATELY and INDEFINITELY, WITHOUT CONVERSATION, and students who force the teacher to remove the technological tools will only hurt themselves.

### **Honor Code:**

The Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School Honor Code must be upheld AT ALL TIMES.

Lying, cheating, stealing AND/OR tolerating others to do so will result in swift Honor Council repercussions. The following are specific examples of how the Honor Code must be upheld in this class:

- 1) Homework, classwork, and assessments must be completed independently unless specified as group work. Group work guidelines will ALWAYS be very clear.
- 2) Only one word can be translated at a time...not a phrase or sentence.
- 3) All sources must be properly cited.
- 4) Other peoples'/sources' phrases or sentences or ideas MAY NOT BE copied word for word unless properly cited and put in quotation marks.
- 5) Students are expected to read assigned books, not just the Spark Notes or Wikipedia or other abbreviated versions of the texts.
- 6) Students must have personal responsibility with their technology in class.
- 7) Students write "Always Honorable" on all graded assignments.