

## *Creative Writing I*

Mrs. Charly Kusta

Room Number: 115

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**Course Description:** Creative Writing is a semester long course for beginners as well as serious writers that will focus on imaginative writing styles including short stories, poetry, drama, and other varied forms of writing including fiction and non-fiction. Students will write in all three modes. Throughout the semester, numerous writing exercises, reading and discussing one another's writing in workshop format and developing a portfolio will be required. All students can expect an engaging, supportive, hardworking and productive class atmosphere that encourages experimentation and constructive criticism. The emphasis is on literary development as both a reader and a writer.

**Course Objectives:** Students will:

- Read examples of published creative writing (creative non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and drama), as well as examples of student works.
- Develop necessary skills for writing and revising creative non-fiction, fiction, poetry and drama.
- Learn to give constructive feedback in a respectful manner.
- Learn self-motivation for developing idea into a polished final draft.
- Appreciate the development and revision processes of creative writing.
- Express personal thoughts and responses in a journal.

**Needed Supplies:** All students are expected to have the required supplies in class by Monday, August 13, 2018.

- Two composition notebooks
- Pens/Pencils

**Rules:** In addition to following the rules set aside in the *Hartselle City Schools Student Handbook and Code of Conduct Manual*, students will abide by the following rules while in my classroom:

1. Respect the teacher, your peers, and yourself. Writing is a process, and encouragement is the best way to motivate and inspire creativity. Maturity is essential to this class. Students who are negative in any way or who do not cooperate with the rest of the class will not be tolerated.
2. Follow all written and oral directions and procedures.
3. Be in the classroom and ready to begin journal when the tardy bell rings.
4. Bring all needed supplies to class everyday.
5. The teacher, not the bell, dismisses the class.

**Procedures:** Students should be familiar with and adhere to the following classroom procedures:

I: Grading Procedures: Tests are 60% of the total grade; Daily assignments are 40% of the total grade

- A. Writing Assignments – Test grade. These will be assigned throughout the year. Some will be completed in class and some will be completed at home.
- B. Daily Prompt Journal –Daily grade. This is a daily assignment that is to be completed *independently and silently*. This will be kept in your notebook until I ask to see it each week. You will have 15-20 minutes after the tardy bell rings to complete the assignment.
- C. Personal Journal – Daily Grade. Must have four entries of at least 150-200 words each.
- D. Class Participation – Daily Grade.
- E. Special projects – Test or Daily. You will be notified of value of project when the assignment is made.

II. Tardy to Class Procedure: You are expected to be in the classroom and ready to begin work before the tardy bell rings each day. According to school guidelines, you will be written up and sent to the office on your third tardy (and each tardy thereafter) in a semester, and the office will determine appropriate punishment.

IV. Leaving the Room Procedure: If you have a medical condition, please make the school nurse aware immediately by providing documentation from your physician. **\*\*You must have the teacher’s permission to leave the classroom.\*\***

V. Make-up Work Procedure: **\*\*For excused absences only.\*\*** When you return from an excused absence, you are responsible for obtaining your make-up work. You will need to write down any missed assignments and promptly complete the work in the allotted time period for your excused absence (see Hartselle City Schools Code of Conduct). If you have any questions regarding your make-up work, see me immediately after class. Any long-term assignments (projects, papers, etc.) that you missed are still due on or before the day of your return. Please remember that this is a workshop -type class which requires in-class participation.

VI. Substitute Procedure: When I am gone I expect your behavior to be superior. Follow all rules and routines as if I were here. I do leave a syllabus and seating chart with the substitute so that he/she will be familiar with the rules and routines of the class. All work completed with a substitute will be graded.

VII. Finishing Early Procedure: If you should finish all of your assignments early, read quietly. Do not pack up your belongings to leave the classroom.

**Note on Daily Prompt Journals and Personal Journals:** These are due on a predetermined day of each week (usually Monday). If for some reason you do not turn in your journal(s), you will lose five points for each day that the journal(s) is/are not turned in. For complete credit on your personal journals, you must meet the required guidelines (at least 150-200 words; over 200 words is great). Since your personal journals will be completed on your own time, you will be responsible for completing four each week even if we are out of school.

**Note on writing suitability:** Some writing is not appropriate for the school setting. Inappropriate writing may be sent to administrator. Check if you are unsure about suitability of subject matter. Writing that concerns harming yourself or another person will be taken seriously and, if necessary, reported to appropriate authorities.

**Note on Plagiarism:** To experiment with another writer’s style can inspire us to develop our own style of writing; however, be careful to not cross the line into plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will result in a failing grade for the assignment. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will also be contacted.

Sign and return this page by Monday, August 13, 2018, to indicate that you and your parent/guardian have read this information.



I have read and understand all of the items in Mrs. Kusta’s class information packet.

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Printed Student’s Name

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Student Signature

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Date

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Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian E-mail address (Please Print)