

Nature and Literature

Period 5

Ms. Babbs

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You will need a notebook for journaling and field notes

On Tuesdays you will need clothes/footwear/raingear for going outside

“We need the tonic of wildness...At the same time that we are earnest to explore and learn all things, we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable, that land and sea be indefinitely wild, unsurveyed and unfathomed by us because unfathomable. We can never have enough of nature.”

— Henry David Thoreau, *Walden: Or, Life in the Woods*

Overview:

In this class we will explore the intersection between the natural world and literature.

We will also explore the natural world through activities outside and in the school garden, reflective journaling, field notes, film, essays, poetry, short stories, and a variety of guest speakers.

One goal of the class will also be to introduce students to the variety of jobs/careers/hobbies that are available outside an office.

A typical week will look like this:

Monday: Introduce a topic; read material

Tuesday: Outside activity; journaling/field notes

Wednesday: Classroom activity; edits

Thursday: Share and discuss journals/field notes

Friday: Guest speaker/film

Units

Farming and Agriculture: Wendell Berry, Barbara Kingsolver, Michael Pollan, William Stafford, Robert Frost, *Food Inc.*

Backcountry/Solitude: John Burroughs, Edward Abbey, *Indian Creek Chronicles*, *Into the Wild*

(Wo)man's Role in Nature: John Muir, *Damnation*, *The Last Mountain*

Objectives:

Students will relate to and connect with the natural world on a deeper level through the mediums of reading and writing.

Students will effectively reflect and and explore deeper ideas about the natural world through in a journaling style of writing.

Students will understand and demonstrate the importance (and usefulness) of field notes and objective documentation.

Students will have a broad understanding of the canon of environmental literature.

Grading:

Students will be graded on sharing and submitting a total of two journal entries/field notes. Five students will present each week. Students will be graded on a rubric.

Students will also be graded weekly on participation. This includes participating and staying on task in outdoor activities, completing (in-class) reading assignments, coming to class on time, contributing to discussion, sharing work, and giving feedback to other students' work.

Classroom Expectations:

Cell phones

Cell phones are not permitted in class (whether this is inside or out). Your first offense will result in losing your phone for the class period. The second offense will result in losing your phone until the end of the school day. If there continues to be a problem it will result in detention and/or a phone call home. DO NOT remove your phone from its safe keeping until the teacher gives you permission.

Bathroom

Please do not use the bathroom unless it's an emergency. If it becomes a problem there will be a limited number of bathroom trips per student.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted with an excused absence for half credit until the end of a unit. After the unit is over no late work will be accepted.

Tardies

If you are not in your seat (or assigned location) when the bell rings it's considered a tardy. After the second tardy you will owe the teacher time to makeup the time you miss. If it continues to be a problem tardies will affect your grade.

Respect

This classroom is a safe space for all people. You are expected to treat everyone with respect (even towards those not present in the classroom). Words and attitudes that are not respectful will not be tolerated and could result in ejection from the classroom and/or a phone call home.

Please return this with a signature from a parent/guardian for your first assignment worth 5 points

Your signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

