STUDYWALKS · COURSE SYLLABUS

English 9 — High School Course

English 9 is the first year of high school English. It teaches close reading, then the short story, poetry, drama, Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, Homer's Odyssey and a short novel, Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, then nonfiction, argument and the founding U.S. documents. Along the way it builds grammar, punctuation and vocabulary, and it teaches the narrative, the literary-analysis essay, the argument and the short research essay. The course quotes only public-domain texts; the student reads the full texts alongside it. Eight essays from the Writing Pack are assigned and graded by the parent.

CREDIT LABEL	HOURS GOAL	STUDYWALKS LEARNING HOURS	SUGGESTED OFFLINE HOURS
1.0 credit	**120 h**	**31.5 h**	**88.5 h**
high school, with the study plan	the 1.0-credit convention	measured runtime plus assessment time	full texts, the journal and essays

31.5 h StudyWalks (8.5 h of lessons, 13.9 h of lectures, 9.1 h of quizzes and exams) + **88.5 h** suggested offline study = **120 h**. 590 lessons in 27 units.

High school credit is granted by the homeschool parent under the state's rules. StudyWalks supplies the record: hours, scores and this syllabus. The credit label is a suggestion; the parent makes the final call.

Essays. Essays are assigned and graded by the parent. The Writing Pack holds the course's eight prompts, one after each writing unit, with the narrative rubric for prompt 1, the analytic rubric for prompts 2 to 8, annotated model answers, a grading sheet and a writing record. The exams are multiple choice and have no essay; StudyWalks never scores an essay.

Prompts, rubrics and model answers: studywalks.com/homeschool/packs/writing/#english-9

A note for parents: English 9 reads standard ninth-grade texts, and several include violence and death. Romeo and Juliet ends in the lovers' double suicide. In the Odyssey, the Cyclops kills some of Odysseus's men, and in the homecoming Odysseus kills the suitors and twelve maids who sided with them are hanged. Murders drive “The Cask of Amontillado”, “The Tell-Tale Heart”, Trifles and Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, and “The Most Dangerous Game” is about a man hunted for sport. Frederick Douglass's Fourth of July address names the cruelties of slavery. The lessons state each event in one plain sentence and never describe it, and no text is cut. You may want to read these units alongside your student.

Course contents

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
1	**Getting Started: How English 9 Works; Reading Closely, Annotating and Asking Questions** How the course works · Reading closely · Marking the text and asking questions · Meaning and evidence · Paraphrase and the Gettysburg Address	20	27 min

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
2	**Words in Context: Context Clues, Roots and Affixes, Connotation, Reference Tools** Context clues · Word parts · Connotation and shades of meaning · Choosing a meaning · Analogies, the word log and one page	22	30 min
3	**The Short Story I: Plot, Conflict, Setting and Point of View** The short story and its plot · Conflict · Setting · Point of view · Hints and reports · Narrators and the whole story	23	40 min (2 parts)
4	**The Short Story II: Character, Theme, Irony, Mood and Suspense** Characterization · Motivation · Theme and symbol · Irony · Mood and tone · Suspense · Surprise endings and one whole story	23	39 min (2 parts)
5	**Grammar I: Parts of Speech, Phrases and Clauses** The parts of speech · The parts of a sentence · Phrases and verbals · Clauses and sentence types · Writing with phrases and clauses	22	30 min
6	**Writing Narratives** True stories and the moment that matters · Planning and opening · Order and pace · Voices and senses · Showing and reflecting · Draft, revise, edit · Writing Prompt 1	22	37 min (2 parts)
7	**Poetry I: Speaker, Imagery and Figurative Language** Reading a poem · Imagery and comparison · Figures, symbols and allusions · Tone, diction and theme · Paraphrase, comparison and one whole poem	23	29 min
8	**Poetry II: Sound, Rhythm, Meter and Form** Sound and rhyme · Rhythm and meter · The sonnet · Ballad, lyric and free verse · Repetition and form	23	30 min
9	**Grammar II: Sentences, Fragments, Run-Ons, Agreement and Parallel Structure** Complete sentences and fragments · Run-ons and comma splices · Subject-verb agreement · Pronoun agreement and case · Clear pronoun reference · Verb tense · Modifiers · Parallel structure · Editing for sentence errors	22	36 min (2 parts)
10	**Writing About Literature: Claims, Evidence, Quotation and Analysis** Analysis and claims · Evidence · Quoting and explaining · The analysis paragraph · The thesis · Shaping the essay · Analysis, not summary · Poems and the prompts	22	37 min (2 parts)
11	**Drama I: How a Play Works; Reading a One-Act Play** How a play is written · The stage and kinds of play · Meeting Trifles · Clues, symbols and irony · Reading and quoting a play	21	29 min
12	**Shakespeare's Language and Theater** Shakespeare and his theater · Verse, prose and rhyme · Old words and old order · Wordplay, speeches and the Prologue · Tools for reading the play	22	29 min
13	**Romeo and Juliet I: Acts 1 and 2** The feud and the families · Mercutio and the feast · The balcony and the Friar · Haste, light and foreshadowing · Character through language	22	29 min
14	**Romeo and Juliet II: Acts 3 to 5, Tragedy and Its Sources** Act 3: the turning point · Acts 4 and 5: the plan and the tomb · Tragedy, fate and irony · Sources and films · Arguing about responsibility	23	30 min

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
15	**Punctuation and Mechanics: Commas, Semicolons, Colons, Quotation Marks and Citing Lines** Commas · Semicolons, colons and dashes · Apostrophes, quotations and titles · Capitals and spelling · Citing lines and proofreading	22	30 min
16	**The Epic and the Hero: Homer, the Oral Tradition and Epic Conventions** The epic and Homer · Epic conventions · The hero and the gods · Hospitality, glory and the war · Translations, journeys and heroes	21	28 min
17	**The Odyssey I: Books 1 to 12** Ithaca and Telemachus · Calypso and the Phaeacians · The Cyclops · From the winds to the Sun's cattle · The teller and the patterns	22	30 min
18	**The Odyssey II: Books 13 to 24, Homecoming and Its Echoes** Home in disguise · Son, suitors and wife · The scar and the bow · The end of the suitors and the bed · Justice, echoes and the essay	22	30 min
19	**The Novel: Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde** The novel and its frame · The door and Mr Hyde · The will, the murder and Lanyon · The last night and the confession · Setting, the reveal and Prompt 6	23	29 min
20	**Reading Nonfiction: Central Idea, Structure, Summary and Purpose** Central idea and summary · Text structure · Purpose, point of view and tone · Ideas, features and memoir · Accounts, paragraphs and the whole	23	29 min
21	**Argument and Rhetoric: Claims, Evidence, Appeals and Fallacies** What an argument is · Ethos, pathos and logos · Rebuttals and devices · Fallacies and evidence · Judging and analyzing	23	29 min
22	**Foundational U.S. Documents and Speeches** The Declaration of Independence · Lincoln · Douglass · Roosevelt and Kennedy · Reading the documents together	21	29 min
23	**Writing to Inform and Explain** Topic and thesis · Structure and support · Transitions, words and style · Openings, closings and headings · Draft, revise and edit	22	30 min
24	**Writing Arguments** The claim · Reasons and evidence · The other side · Plan and reasoning · Checking the reasoning · Opening and closing · Draft, revise and Prompt 7	23	39 min (2 parts)
25	**Short Research: Questions, Sources, Quotation, Citation and Plagiarism** The research question · Finding and judging sources · Notes, paraphrase and plagiarism · Synthesis and MLA style · Draft, revise and Prompt 8	23	30 min
26	**Speaking, Listening and Media** Discussion · Speakers and presentations · Delivery and listening · Media · Speaking it all	20	27 min
27	**Capstone: Reading and Writing Across the Genres** The final and the genres · Unseen passages · Revision and grammar · Beyond the course · The whole course	15	24 min

Assessment and grading

- **Unit quizzes.** 27 quizzes, 10 questions each, checked as the student goes, each answer with the lesson to review. Untimed; retakes are unlimited.
- **Mid exam.** 50 questions on units 1–14, drawn fresh each time and scored at the end with a breakdown by content area. Untimed; retakes are unlimited.
- **Final exam.** 60 questions, 90 minutes, on the whole course. Scored 20–80; 50 passes (40 of 60 correct, about 67%). Retakes are unlimited with a 24-hour wait, each a fresh draw.

Suggested course-grade worksheet

Part	Weight	Score
Essays from the Writing Pack (parent-graded with the rubrics)	40%	
Final exam (percent correct)	25%	
Mid exam (best score)	10%	
Unit quizzes (average of best scores)	10%	
Reading journal, discussion and the optional talk (parent's judgment)	15%	

Suggested letter scale

Letter	Composite
A	90–100
B	80–89
C	70–79
D	60–69
F	below 60

Suggested; the parent sets every weight and the grade, and enters one letter on the family dashboard. Essays are graded with the Writing Pack rubrics; the exams have no essay. A passing final is the completion standard for the course record.

Study plan

The 88.5 offline hours are spread over the units in proportion to each unit's StudyWalks time. For each unit: read the unit's full public-domain texts (the course quotes them; the full stories, poems, Trifles, Romeo and Juliet, the assigned books of the Odyssey and Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde are free online), keep a reading journal with one page of notes per text, write the unit's assignment from the Writing Pack when the unit names one, and redo the unit quiz misses. Log the time as you go.

Unit	Title	StudyWalks	Offline, suggested	Unit total
1	Getting Started: How English 9 Works; Reading Closely, Annotating and Asking Questions	45 min	2 h 55 min	3 h 40 min
2	Words in Context: Context Clues, Roots and Affixes, Connotation, Reference Tools	49 min	3 h 15 min	4 h 4 min
3	The Short Story I: Plot, Conflict, Setting and Point of View	1 h	3 h 55 min	4 h 55 min
4	The Short Story II: Character, Theme, Irony, Mood and Suspense	59 min	3 h 50 min	4 h 49 min
Lessons and lectures		**22 h 28 min**	**88 h 30 min**	**110 h 58 min**
Quizzes, mid exam and final (stated time)		**9 h 6 min**	**—**	**9 h 6 min**

Unit	Title	StudyWalks	Offline, suggested	Unit total
5	Grammar I: Parts of Speech, Phrases and Clauses	49 min	3 h 15 min	4 h 4 min
6	Writing Narratives	56 min	3 h 40 min	4 h 36 min
7	Poetry I: Speaker, Imagery and Figurative Language	49 min	3 h 15 min	4 h 4 min
8	Poetry II: Sound, Rhythm, Meter and Form	50 min	3 h 15 min	4 h 5 min
9	Grammar II: Sentences, Fragments, Run-Ons, Agreement and Parallel Structure	55 min	3 h 35 min	4 h 30 min
10	Writing About Literature: Claims, Evidence, Quotation and Analysis	56 min	3 h 40 min	4 h 36 min
11	Drama I: How a Play Works; Reading a One-Act Play	47 min	3 h 5 min	3 h 52 min
12	Shakespeare's Language and Theater	48 min	3 h 10 min	3 h 58 min
13	Romeo and Juliet I: Acts 1 and 2	48 min	3 h 10 min	3 h 58 min
14	Romeo and Juliet II: Acts 3 to 5, Tragedy and Its Sources	50 min	3 h 15 min	4 h 5 min
15	Punctuation and Mechanics: Commas, Semicolons, Colons, Quotation Marks and Citing Lines	49 min	3 h 15 min	4 h 4 min
16	The Epic and the Hero: Homer, the Oral Tradition and Epic Conventions	46 min	3 h	3 h 46 min
17	The Odyssey I: Books 1 to 12	49 min	3 h 15 min	4 h 4 min
18	The Odyssey II: Books 13 to 24, Homecoming and Its Echoes	49 min	3 h 15 min	4 h 4 min
19	The Novel: Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde	49 min	3 h 15 min	4 h 4 min
20	Reading Nonfiction: Central Idea, Structure, Summary and Purpose	49 min	3 h 15 min	4 h 4 min
21	Argument and Rhetoric: Claims, Evidence, Appeals and Fallacies	49 min	3 h 15 min	4 h 4 min
22	Foundational U.S. Documents and Speeches	47 min	3 h 5 min	3 h 52 min
23	Writing to Inform and Explain	49 min	3 h 15 min	4 h 4 min
24	Writing Arguments	59 min	3 h 50 min	4 h 49 min
25	Short Research: Questions, Sources, Quotation, Citation and Plagiarism	50 min	3 h 15 min	4 h 5 min
26	Speaking, Listening and Media	45 min	2 h 55 min	3 h 40 min
27	Capstone: Reading and Writing Across the Genres	37 min	2 h 25 min	3 h 2 min
Lessons and lectures		**22 h 28 min**	**88 h 30 min**	**110 h 58 min**
Quizzes, mid exam and final (stated time)		**9 h 6 min**	**—**	**9 h 6 min**

Unit times are the unit's lecture runtime plus its lessons at the course's measured average lesson length; totals can differ from the learning hours by rounding.

Sources

- **Anchor:** Odell Education. *High School Literacy Program*, Grade 9, digital student edition, hosted by Open Up Resources, with the Odell Literacy Toolbox reference guides (© 2023 Odell Education, CC BY-SA 4.0). Skills, terms and the order of the course informed by this program; nothing is reproduced, and the texts its units assign belong to their owners. The Odell Education and Open Up Resources names and logos are not covered by its licence. CC BY 4.0
- **Anchor:** Tanya Long Bennett. *Writing and Literature: Composition as Inquiry, Learning, Thinking, and Communication*. University of North Georgia Press. CC BY-SA 4.0
- **Witness:** Getty and Kwon, editors. *Compact Anthology of World Literature*, Part 1; Robinson and Getty, editors. *British Literature I* and *II*. University of North Georgia Press. CC BY-SA 4.0
- **Witness:** *Writing Guide with Handbook*. OpenStax, Rice University (facts only). CC BY-NC-SA 4.0
- **Witness:** *Composition and Literature* glossary and study guides. BCcampus (facts only). CC BY-NC-SA 4.0
- **Witness:** Excelsior University Online Writing Lab (facts only). CC BY-NC 4.0
- **Witness:** Lumen Learning. *Writing Skills Lab* (facts only; licences vary by page). CC BY / CC BY-SA / CC BY-NC-SA, by page
- **Witness:** Abbott, McDorman, Timmerman and Lamberton. *Public Speaking and Democratic Participation: Speech, Deliberation, and Analysis in the Civic Realm*, 2nd edition. PALNI Open Press (facts only). CC BY 4.0
- **Witness:** Poetry Foundation: poet pages and glossary of poetic terms (facts only).
- **Witness:** Wikipedia, for corroborating facts the other sources do not cover. CC BY-SA 4.0
- **Primary texts:** Project Gutenberg and Wikisource, for works first published before 1931; the National Archives for the Declaration of Independence and for U.S. government speeches. Public domain in the US

This StudyWalks final is an end-of-course exam built from the English 9 course, whose scope is modeled on the grades 9–10 English language arts standards of the Common Core State Standards. Scores are StudyWalks scores on a 20–80 scale. The exam has no essay: essays are assigned and graded by the parent with the course rubric. The course and exam have not been reviewed, certified or endorsed by any state, standards body or testing organization, and passing does not award credit: high school credit is granted by the homeschool parent.

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