

## JMCHS Application for Advanced Placement English Literature

The seminar is designed to challenge bright and motivated students genuinely eager to engage a substantial body of literature that is not usually encountered in regular high school English classes. The class will be primarily question, discussion, and close reading rather than lectures. The focus will be on reading comprehension and analysis of the texts. Several short essays on student-initiated topics are due each quarter. Exams will be both essay and objective. **All students must take the AP exam in the spring. The cost is currently seventy-five dollars.**

If you are interested in being considered for this class please fill out the form below, attach it to your portfolio and submit it **NO LATER THAN MARCH 12, 2:40 PM. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!**

Please note: there is a summer reading list and exams on those texts the first week of class. Students who cannot pass the exams with a C- or higher will be transferred to another class. Any act of plagiarism will result in the student being removed from the class.

### PORTFOLIO APPLICATION:

Please include all of the following items as part of your application. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.** The cover letter and the critical analysis of the poem are the only two new pieces of writing. The rest should be examples of your best work.

#### Include:

- Application
- Cover letter (one page describing why you are interested in the course and what your qualifications are)
- A critical analysis of "The Gift"

#### Optional:

- Reflections on any or all of your pieces of writing
- Any other writing that demonstrates your ability

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cumulative GPA \_\_\_\_\_

English Courses	Teacher	Grade
Freshman year	_____	_____
Sophomore year (1 <sup>st</sup> Semester)	_____	_____
Sophomore year (2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester)	_____	_____

**Instructions for writing the critical analysis essay.** Type a focused, coherent response to the following poem. Your response should be critical, not personal, and can be no longer than one and a half pages. I suggest you choose one specific focus for your essay. Critical analysis essays often look at **one** of the following things: major idea, imagery, diction, tone, mood, point of view or style. An analysis attempts to take some thing apart and show how it works. Do your own work. Use the text of the poem; do not use supplemental information or data. You might use a dictionary or look in an essay-writing handbook for tips on writing. I am interested in your ability to read critically and write about what the author is communicating with this piece of literature. Write about this poem only.

Near the Heart of Happening  
The foal hangs halfway out  
and the mare strains  
but can't push anymore.  
I bring a bucket of cold river water  
across the field. Haboo  
I say in her ear,  
what the Skagit children said  
when the storyteller stopped:  
keep the story going.  
They said it with clamor,  
with hands and voices  
louder each time  
but I am soft with it,  
cool water on her neck.  
Haboo I say reaching in  
where the hips have locked  
as she groans and falters.  
Haboo for the shanks I grab  
and jerk, for the spine  
popping and the hips coming free.  
Haboo for the foal lying in the dirt  
as the mare nudges  
and cleans its body  
as the breathing stops.  
Haboo as the body cools  
as we stay with it after  
as light begins,  
as I regard the still air,  
the meadowlark, the weight  
of its bright singing.  
Kevin Goodan