

English and Literature with Ms. Potter

Fall 2017



“I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house.” – Nathaniel Hawthorne

MS. POTTER'S BOOKSHELF

On Saturday, September 2, before school even started, the Library of Congress sponsored the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. I was thrilled to see so many of our middle school students and families there enjoying literature and meeting their favorite authors, and it set a great tone for the year!

As we kick off the school year, the students are adjusting well to our new Chromebook technology in the classroom. We're all set up on Google Classroom, and many students have already submitted multiple reading blogs for the quarter via Google Docs. We've all gotten our reading goals situated as well and are well on our way to our first dog tags!

As part of our technology overhaul, we've upgraded our textbooks for English and literature as well. We're using Sadlier Connect for spelling and vocabulary practice, plus McGraw-Hill StudySync for literature study. All of the students are also receiving NoRedInk.com and Quill.org accounts for intensive grammar and writing practice as well!

The students are getting their first class books very early in the quarters to get their reading started. The sixth grade will begin with *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, seventh with *The Cay*, and eighth with *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *Maus*. They've also all received their first quarter book project assignments, which are due October 2 and are somehow based upon the Library of Congress or the National Book Festival.

With fall comes a lot of exciting literary events and opportunities, beginning with our celebration of Roald Dahl Day on September 13, followed by Banned Books Week September 24-30. The end of September will also see the commissioning of our second class of grammar police deputies, and with October comes National Book Month and Dictionary Day on the 16th! With all of these goings-on in the next few weeks, we'll have a lot to keep us busy!



This year we'll be:

- Flexing our creative writing muscles to write original scripts, to be performed in plays with puppets and backdrops created by members of the art club

- Incorporating public speaking practice into our class exercises by writing and researching speeches on a wide array of topics, including for our field trip destinations



- Working on our writing skills through various projects, including a charity drive for the Make-A-Wish Foundation

- Continuing to practice and prepare for the county spelling bee by expanding our vocabulary



- Completing all sorts of projects, such as board games, movie trailers, and comic books based on novels we've read; TED talks; resumes and autobiographies for our future selves; class newspapers; and whatever else we might come up with!

- Utilizing the area we are so fortunate to live in through exploring the resources of the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institutes, and perhaps even having a few guest speakers visit us in the classroom!



- Reading lots of books, including *Holes*, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, *Eggs*, *The Giver*, *Things Not Seen*, and others!



About Me:

My name is Haley Potter, and this is my fifth year teaching at St. Peter's. I am also a graduate of St. Peter's, so it is a great experience to be back as a teacher! I attended Villanova University and graduated with degrees in English and Honors, as well as a concentration in writing and rhetoric and minors in Spanish, sociology, and gender and women's studies. I just received my master's in leadership in teaching, and I'm now looking into a second master's degree to keep myself busy! I love to read, and both creative and informative writing have always been passions, so I'm very happy to be able to share those interests with my students!

