



**Ephrata High School**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**Tandem I**  
**1199**



### *I. Course Description*

Tandem I is a challenging and vigorous ninth-grade course that emphasizes the interrelationship of the language arts skills of reading, writing, speaking, thinking, and listening. The primary emphasis is on effective written and oral communication and enhanced literary analysis skills. These skills are supported by other language arts areas of study including research, vocabulary, grammar and usage, and mechanics. The importance of independent reading is emphasized constantly. Students will document their reading and complete selected reading projects outside of class.

### *II. Materials & Equipment*

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee  
*The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare  
*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe  
*Adventures in Literature*  
*Adventures in Appreciation*  
Excerpts from various world cultures literary selections  
Personal reading books from home or the media center  
*Vocabulary Workshop* Level E vocabulary program

### *III. Course Goals & Objectives*

Students will:

- make connections between writing, literature, grammar, and vocabulary study throughout the year.
- recognize cross-curricular connections between language arts and world cultures and other content areas.
- research and read about another country's culture in conjunction with World Cultures classes.
- write a multi-paragraph research paper.
- practice public speaking techniques.
- review and refine their writing skills in single and multi-paragraph essays.
- gain an understanding of the life and times of William Shakespeare.
- identify and apply the elements of dramatic tragedy when reading *The Merchant of Venice*.
- recognize and apply the elements of poetry.
- recognize and apply the elements found in short stories.
- recognize and apply the elements of a novel when reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- read and study *Things Fall Apart* in conjunction with the World Cultures Africa unit.
- read at least one personal reading book every marking period.
- document their reading and complete selected projects outside of class.

### *IV. Course Topics (Summary Outline)*

- Writing skills with an emphasis on the writing process, organizational structure, and enhanced style.
- Narrative, informative and persuasive (mostly literary) writing assignments
- Research skills tied to the World Cultures paper—note-taking, parenthetical documentation, outlining, rough drafting, and editing.
- Various World Cultures literary tie-ins
- Short stories
- Poetry
- *Things Fall Apart*
- *The Merchant of Venice*
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*

## *V. Assignments & Grading*

English pre-assessment

Marking period book assignments

Unit tests and quizzes

Vocabulary tests and quizzes

Paragraphs and compositions

Collaborative learning experiences

Oral Presentations

Homework

Class work

Notebook checks

Final Exam