



## Mr Bevard's 9th Grade English Updates

2 October  
2020

Dear Students and Families,

Here is another update to point out a few noteworthy and important events in 9th Grade English. We completed our first assessment of the year at the beginning of Week 5. There are some singular success, including one very near perfect score, which are worthy of congratulations. (The high score was a 94% - you know who you are. ***Congratulations!***)

While there are some success stories, for a large number of students, the Midterm told the story of how preparation and classroom engagement are absolutely critical factors. Here are a few considerations you might wish to make note of:

The Midterm...

- Students whose Conduct and Engagement scores are in the 80s or above (that means regular participators with several comments or questions per class) tended to do better on the exam.
- Students who have their cameras on and are primarily active in the voice chat also tended to perform better on the assessment.
- Thanks to the diligence of two students, I was made aware of some concerns regarding the assessment's arrangement. Long story short, the format of two questions compelled me to curve the Midterm by ten points. Students were prorated those ten points, and those scores will be included in the Progress Reports for Quarter 1.

In other news...

- Our Week 5 Grammar task taught us more lessons about the limits of our knowledge. I want to assure all the students who strove diligently but who failed to reach their expected scores: your work is ***absolutely not in vain***. It's only by finding our limits that we can realistically grow them.
- The Week 5 Grammar task, along with its feedback, will remain in the Google Classroom, but I will remove it from the grading structure. This will leave you with the usable data but not penalize you for work that the data reveals is presently beyond your preparation.
- Our grammar work will resume next week with a diagnostic on the Parts of Speech. This will be a 20-question Classwork task in the format of a quiz.
- I have resolved to introduce a second quiz PRIOR to the Quarter 1 Cumulative Exam. This second quiz will be shorter and focus exclusively on the grammar regarding parts of speech

- The Quarter 1 Cumulative Exam will consist of a similar format as the Midterm, but there will be fewer questions and a lengthy writing task.
- Office hours remain open on a first-come, first-served basis.

In the event of an emergency...

- Your substitute task has changed slightly. Instead of using the questionable Savvas Realize text, your substitute assignments in the event of my absence will be furnished by NEWSELA. This will solve the problems of spotty access to the material.

The road ahead...

- Week 6 marks a shift in our text from poetry to the novel. We are reading John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*. This is a neat little story that packs a mighty punch, and it's particularly relevant to our current historical moment, as we consider our society's obligations to its marginalized voices. We'll look at Kino, a Central Native American who runs afoul of the wealthy society which threatens his traditional way of life. This is a weighty but accessible text, and I hope you're all prepared to dive in (pun intended; you'll soon catch the allusion ← See what I did there?).