

## **Course Description: Mrs. Morrison's Intensive Reading and Writing Course**

Mrs. Morrison's Intensive Reading and Writing Course is designed to make reading, writing, and learning a fun and enriching experience. Each session focuses on a selected novel, blending interactive reading with structured writing instruction to foster critical thinking, creativity, and strong communication skills.

### **Course Format:**

- Weekly one-hour Zoom classes guided by teacher-narrated slides through Google Classroom.
- Students are encouraged to participate actively using video, audio, chat, and read-aloud activities.
- A Gmail account is required for access to course materials and assignment submission.

### **Assignments & Structure:**

- Students will maintain a single Google Doc, formatted in MLA style, to complete and organize their work throughout the course.
- Novel chapters are divided into manageable sections. Each week includes reading assignments, comprehension questions, and class discussions.
- After completing the novel, students transition to writing assignments, applying what they've learned through guided instruction.

### **Skills Emphasized:**

- **Reading Skills:** Close reading, vocabulary development (using online dictionaries), reading comprehension, literary analysis, and prediction-based thinking.
- **Writing Skills:**
  - Mastery of writing conventions: grammar, spelling, punctuation, diction, syntax.
  - Development of expressive and analytical writing: use of literary devices, detailed and sensory descriptions, character analysis, and "showing" instead of telling.
  - Essay structure: crafting engaging introductions, coherent body paragraphs, and effective conclusions.

### **Class Activities:**

- Weekly introduction of vocabulary and discussion questions based on the reading.
- In-class reflection and analysis of the novel's content and themes.
- Review of reading comprehension responses to reinforce understanding and prepare for the next section.

Whether students are just starting or continuing their literary journey, this course provides the tools and support to become confident readers and skilled writers.