



American Classics

Level 5 / Year Long Class

2020-2021

Welcome!

Class Dates:

Fall 2020: September 8, 2020–January 22, 2021

Spring 2021: January 25, 2021–May 28, 2021

Breaks: Thanksgiving (Nov. 23-27), Christmas Break (Dec. 21-Jan. 15),
Winter Break (Feb. 22-26), Holy Week and Bright (April 26-May 3)

Class Times:

Monday-Thursday

Section 1 9:00-9:55 a.m. EST (8:00-8:55 a.m. CST)

Section 2 11:10-12:05 p.m. EST (10:10-11:05 a.m. CST)

Instructor: Presbyteria Maria Koulianos, B.S., M.Div., Th.M.

Email: mkoulianos.raphaelschool@gmail.com

Cell Phone: 260.797.1226 (text available)

Office Hours: TBD

Course Map:

Fall 2020

Irving Stories

Sand County Almanac

Tom Sawyer

Fredrick Douglas

Across Five Aprils

O Pioneers!

September 8-September 27

September 28-October 4

October 5-October 24

October 26-November 8

November 9-November 29

November 30-December 18

Spring 2021

<i>Our Town</i>	January 18-February 7
<i>Old Man and the Sea</i>	February 8-February 21
<i>War of the Worlds</i>	February 22-March 14
<i>Hiroshima</i>	March 15-April 11
<i>Saint Innocent</i>	April 12-May 28

Class Description:

This liberal arts class is designed to increase student's communications skills through reading, writing, speaking and listening, and the study of the English language. Students will read the American classics alongside a timeline of our national history as it plays a fundamental role in shaping literature. Additionally, we will focus on nature studies, and composition of personal letters, narratives, and short speeches.

This year students can expect to read a variety of novels, short stories, plays, poetry, essays, and non-fiction. These literary pieces will model the different writing styles we will be working on in class. Writing assignments will include timed responses, journal writing, essays, critiques, and creative pieces. Vocabulary, spelling, and grammar will be an important part of this class and will be reinforced holistically through each composition piece. Because we are a community of learners, we will work together as a class and each student will present information to their peers in groups or individually.

Each student should have two composition books or notebooks to use for the year. One will be for their own *Interactive Literature Student Notebook* that will be used in class for practice and growth in the areas like mastery of writing styles, grammar, vocabulary, comprehension, and analysis of literary pieces through journaling, and the other for a *Reading Journal*. Both will prepare students for discussions, retelling narratives, and answering questions leading to definitions, examples, and comparisons of literature. **See documents on class *Interactive Student Notebooks and Reading Journals*.**

Our major units of study will include but are not limited to:

- Poetry, Short Stories, and Novels
- Narrative, Expository, Technical and Persuasive Writing
- Speech Writing and Delivery

During our writing units, we will also utilize the multi-step writing process to develop, revise, evaluate, and improve each written piece of work. In our course of study in all the units, we will address various elements of specific genres including but not limited to organization, purpose, audience, narration, conflict, tone, and theme.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Through Schoology, our student learning management system, students will submit their assignments and will be evaluated on a point system. All assignments must be submitted by the given due date; if an extension is needed, each student is responsible for contacting the instructor.

While pursuing the *Level 5 American Classics* through Scholé Academy, although “restful” learning, we also recognize the need to provide grades for students. It’s a delicate balance to achieve both restful learning and excellent academic performance. Earning a specific grade should not overshadow achievement goals for mastery. The following grades will be assigned to your student’s level of achievement: *magna cum laude* (with great praise); *cum laude* (with praise); *satis* (sufficient, satisfactory) and *non satis* (not sufficient).

Ideally, every average student working diligently should do praiseworthy work (*cum laude*). Those who excel beyond this expectation will be the *magna cum laude* students. Students who do adequate but not praiseworthy work be designated *satis*. *Non satis* means lacking sufficiency or adequacy.

Traditional percentage grades will also be provided and will be readily accessible on the *Level 5 American Classics* Schoology page. Additionally, a transcript of that grade or an evaluation narrative can be provided to the requesting parent at the end of the year.

Ultimately, at the end of the course, parents are the final authority in awarding credit and are responsible to determine a letter grade. Teachers are available for consulting in these decisions and will offer their input upon request.

- **Returned Work**

All work will be graded and returned via Schoology in a timely manner. Please allow a while longer for lengthier writing assignments. Students will have an opportunity to review their graded work, and sometimes be asked to reflect or resubmit their work. These are opportunities for students to grow academically, and in the end, create a portfolio for the year.

- **Projects**

Projects will be assigned at various times throughout the year. An evaluation rubric will be given for each of these projects. Each one will require planning and/or research. Other requirements may be given when the project is assigned.

- **Academic Dishonesty:**

Students are on their honor to abide by [Scholé Academy’s Learning Philosophy](#) which assumes the personal cultivation of *Student-Virtues* described in the *Student-Parent Handbook*.

Additionally, please be mindful regarding plagiarism. Any copying of someone’s work, online sources, or traditional sources without citing where said information came from is plagiarism. Students should consult their chosen manual of style to cite sources. If found,

students who have plagiarized will be asked to resubmit their work and consequently will be given a lower point value for that particular assignment.

Required Materials:

Composition Book or Notebook for *Interactive Student Literature Notebook*
Additional Composition Book or Notebook for *Reading Journal*

Literature Books and Texts

Irving Stories (978-0141330921)
Sand County Almanac (978-0345345059)
Tom Sawyer (978-1973844730)
Fredrick Douglass: Narrative of Life (978-0486284996)
Across Five Aprils (978-0425182789)
O Pioneers! (978-0486277851)
Our Town (978-0060512637)
Old Man and the Sea (978-0684801223)
War of the Worlds (978-0486295060)
Hiroshima (978-0679721031)
Saint Innocent (0-913836-60-5)
The Elements of Style (978-0205309023)
A Little History of the United States (978-0300181418)
Brave Companions: Portraits in History (978-0671792763)

Student Conduct and Expectations:

All students are to strive for the *Two Greatest Commandments*; to love God and to love their neighbor as themselves.

Students should endeavor for, develop, and hone five *Executive Function Skills* during this course:

- 1. Being an Engaged Student:** Stepping into the arena of class discussion, asking questions, supplying answers, generating the internal dialogue necessary to determine if what's being discussed is important and necessary.
- 2. Note Taking:** Taking notes in their *Interactive Student Notebook* during and after class engaging content material important and relevant in an organized fashion. These notes would then be consulted, independently, for application in assignments and assessments. **See document on class *Interactive Student Notebooks*.**
- 3. Attention to Detail & Preparedness:** Consistently adhering to deadlines, submission requirements, adhering to style guides and codes, confirming technology is working prior to the start of class, being responsible to determine how to proceed after an absence, being responsible for consulting the course syllabus and adjusting as the class proceeds, etc.
- 4. Employing Critiques:** After receiving feedback to their submissions, this feedback is applied to future assignments rather than repeating mistakes. Information is gleaned from the live class critiques of fellow students and after taking note, through learning from others,

these mistakes are avoided as well.

5. Initiative/Maturity: Throughout the course, when necessary, questions, comments, and concerns will be addressed by taking initiative and meeting with the instructor during office hours or contacting the instructor via email.

The Virtual Classroom:

We will be using the free online “virtual classroom” software provided by Zoom, one of the leading companies that provides such software. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio, text chat and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the [Technology in the Classroom](#) section of the Student Parent Handbook. Please note, students should have their cameras on during class.

Students will submit documents by scanning and uploading them to their personal computer, then attaching those files as .pdfs to an email. They will submit their work to the *Level 5 American Classics* Schoology assignment page (access granted after enrollment is secured).

About the Instructor:



Presbytera Maria Koulianos has been an educator for over 20 years, loving every minute, with vast experiences in both public and private schools as a classroom teacher, developing and implementing learning programs for students, and as an area administrator. She earned her Bachelor of Science in education from Indiana University with certifications in elementary education, 7/8 non-departmental, language arts 1-9, and computer education K-12. She holds a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theology from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA, where she wrote her thesis, *The Annunciation of the Theotokos from a Liturgical Perspective*. Presbytera Maria and her husband, Father Dionysios, live in the greater Springfield area where he is the Dean of Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Springfield, MA. She hopes to inspire her students to love literature and become lifelong learners.