

# Mrdclassroom.com Newsletter – Winter 2015

An Informational Newsletter for Parents of Students in Mr. Dawursk's English Classes

## Important Due Dates

### Vocabulary Quizzes:

- January: # 11-14
- February: #15-17
- March: #18-20

### American Authors Classes:

- Crucible Unit Test:  
January 9<sup>th</sup>
- Author Study  
Presentations:  
January 12<sup>th</sup>
- Romanticism Unit starts:  
February 3
- Edgar Allen Poe Unit  
starts:  
March 2
- On Demand Essay  
(Persuasive): February 9
- Romanticism Unit Test:  
March 25
- AAA Unit starts: March 27

### English 9 - ESL:

- Edgar Allen Poe Unit Test:  
January 15<sup>th</sup>
- ON Demand Writing  
Essay:  
January 9<sup>th</sup>
- Romeo and Juliet Unit  
starts January 26
- On Demand Letter  
(Romeo): February 9
- Shakespeare / R & J Unit  
Tests: March 26
- Non-Fiction Unit starts:  
March 23

### World Literature:

- Country / Author Study  
presentation due  
January 12<sup>th</sup>

## Poetry Perfect:

*Winners of the Classroom Poetry Out Loud Contest Announced*

During the final weeks of school in December, just prior to the winter break, all the English classrooms at MHSA conducted the first round competitions for *Poetry Out Loud*. It is a national high school competition where students perform two poems before their peers. The criteria and rubrics were presented in Mr. Dawursk's classes during the month of November. Students could pick from several hundred choices. The only rules were that both poems had to be from the official list, one of the poems had to be prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the poems had to be memorized, and a written poetry analysis form completed by each student.



Winners of the classroom competition were chosen by the teacher based upon the criteria and rubrics outlined by the national competition. The analysis was not a requirement of the national competition, but rather an assignment used for benchmarking analysis proficiencies by the teacher. The winners for each of Mr. Dawursk's classroom competitions were:

**2<sup>nd</sup> Hour** -- Analeon F (Sr)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Hour** – Awet H (Fr); runner-up: Buluga (Fr)

**4<sup>th</sup> Hour** – Parish J (Jr); runner-up: Shamia M (Jr)

**5<sup>th</sup> Hour** – Isaiah H (Jr); runner-up: Kelsey K (Jr)

**7<sup>th</sup> Hour** -- Mia V (Jr); ; runner-up: Jackira V (Jr)

Winners of the classroom competitions will compete against the other English classrooms at MHSA to determine one winner for each grade level. Winners will continue to compete at district, state, and eventually the national competition in Washington D.C.

## Author Study Helps Students See Minority Contributions

At the end of the first semester, American Author's classes will be researching, writing and presenting a Cultural Author Study to their peers. The assignment includes an evaluation of the author's style, use of literary devices, social impact, and contribution to cultural literature, with special focus on one story or set of poems that the student read by the author. An effective presentation will synthesize (combine) the student's insight with the author's own observations and third party evaluations of his/her work. Each student chooses one author to study from a list of 100 American authors whose cultural backgrounds include African American, Hispanic, Asian, Arab, and American Indian. The research component includes a biography of the author, discussion on their first work, information about their personal, religious, and political beliefs, critiques about the author's best work, and the author's impact on society. Students are required to document all sources and quotes using MLA format and a complete bibliography of sources consulted is required. While all students will be presenting their results as a minimum three minute speech presentation before their classes, they can choose two of three forms to present their visual information: a 1-2 page typed research paper, a power point slide show, or a poster. Additionally, their three minute minimum presentation must include a one minute reading of an example of the author's work. Specific requirements for the project are outlined at:

### Assignment Information:

<http://www.mrdclassroom.com/authorstudy.html>

### Format Information:

<http://www.mrdclassroom.com/authorstudyformat.htm>

### IMPORTANT:

Semester One Ends  
January 16.

Late Assignments due  
by January 12!



### FINAL EXAM DATES:

#### American Authors:

- Period 4 – 1/22;
- Period 5 – 1/22;
- Period 7 – 1/21

#### English 9:

- Period 2 – 1/20

#### World Literature:

- Period 3 – 1/20

**Need to contact Mr. Dawursk about your child?**

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