

Introduction to Literature Course 2026-27 Registration Prospectus (Regular or Honors Track)

amy.ruff@outlook.com

Amy Ruff's Home School Tutorials

(919) 219-4338

Prospectus: Amy Ruff will lead this journey into some of the most **beloved works of literature**. From **heights of joy to depths of despair**, literary adventure awaits us!

- We begin by traversing a few **dense & intense thematic heights & cultural ravines** with C.S. Lewis's medieval retelling of the Cupid & Psyche myth in ***Till We Have Faces*** & then (after our PlayMakers outing & study per below) ***A Wrinkle in Time*** by Madeleine L'Engle—which needs no introduction.
- Thanks to **PlayMakers Repertory Co.**, we'll experience these **high-quality dramas** at **UNC-Chapel Hill**:
 - ➔ 10 AM Thurs 9/17/26: ***Oedipus the King/Colonus***, adapted/directed by Carey Perloff → “Experience **Sophocles’ epic trilogy**...in a sweeping tale of fate, prophecy, & reckoning. This fresh adaptation breathes life into the **ancient tale of a king’s search for truth**—& the **devastating consequences** ... he finds.” ~PRC
 - ➔ 10 AM Thurs 12/3/26: ***Our Town*** by Thornton Wilder → “In ... [early 1900s] Grover’s Corners, **ordinary moments reveal extraordinary beauty**. Wilder’s **Pulitzer Prize-winning** *Our Town* is a **heartfelt, timeless portrait of love, family, & the fleeting nature of life**, reminding us to **cherish the here & now**.” ~PRC
 - ➔ 10 AM Wed 2/3/27: ***The Piano Lesson*** by August Wilson → “In 1936, a brother and sister clash over a **priceless heirloom piano chronicling their family’s legacy**. Sell it for land, or preserve it as history? August Wilson’s **Pulitzer Prize-winning** drama **explores heritage, identity, & the cost of moving forward** when the **past refuses to stay silent**.” ~PRC
- We’ll **launch the New Year** with some fun, collaborative **lit-team analysis**, featuring the following:
 - ➔ One of Steinbeck’s novellas, ***Of Mice & Men*** OR ***Red Pony***, will carry us into the rugged ranch life of California’s Salinas Valley during the 1930’s Great Depression.
 - ➔ And—DRUMROLL—we will encounter Charlotte Brontë’s ***Jane Eyre***. **Tracing plot, dissecting conflicts, identifying themes, & analyzing characters**, we will tarry with heroic Jane & despicable Mr. Rochester.
- Our edifying study of the Bible as literature will focus on genres of history, wisdom, poetry, & parables.
- To keep up our energy on this literary journey, we will find **respite & sustenance** during **5 Poetry Intensives**—spaced at **timely intervals throughout the year**. From sweet & savory to spicy & sour, choice poetic selections will please every literary palate!
- In the **bliss of spring**, we’ll **turn our hearts toward love** with **Shakespeare’s consuming romantic tragedy**, ***Romeo & Juliet***, learning to value parental authority, self-control, & peace.
- Speaking of peace, our **year will end** with a **deeply psychological study** of ***A Separate Peace*** by John Knowles, giving us **much to reflect upon** before saying our goodbyes.

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Testimonies about Class with Mrs. Ruff:

*Mrs. Ruff's English classes **prepared me exceptionally well** for the **writing demands of Harvard**.*

I thrived in my required freshman writing course, earning an A.

*Specifically, I found **my ability to structure a paper far exceeded that of my peers**.*

*Now, **as a senior**, I am **known among my peers as an excellent editor** and have edited several senior theses.... However, to say Mrs. Ruff's courses improved only my writing ability would be insufficient. The **benefits of her courses have extended beyond English classes**. All courses at Harvard require the ability to think clearly and formulate a sound argument. **I attribute my success at Harvard**, in large part, **to Mrs. Ruff's development of my critical-thinking skills**.*

~ Kendrick, **Harvard Grad** (Majors in Economics & Computer Science)

*I took two of Mrs. Ruff's literature classes in high school & **loved every second** of each. She **nurtured my love of literature & writing** while engaging everyone in the class...in lively discussions about each work studied. **Debates got heated in a friendly way**, & Mrs. Ruff wasn't afraid to **let the conversation digress** into more contemporary & relevant subjects, like Star Wars or Harry Potter, **if it tied back to the day's theme**. Mrs. Ruff's classes **set me up to succeed at UNC's School of Journalism**, as a full-time **newspaper reporter**, & now as a **freelance content marketer**. I couldn't recommend her classes more!*

~ Olivia, **UNC-CH Grad & Professional Writer**

*Mrs. Ruff's lit classes were the best! Her **easy-to-follow teaching**...brings **each work to life & provokes deep reflection** on themes & issues. My favorite part of class was the **lively & engaging discussion**, where Mrs. Ruff would push us to **develop, discuss, & defend our own thoughts**.... Before taking Mrs. Ruff's classes, writing terrified me, but by working with Mrs. Ruff, I found my writing style. Her **constant encouragement & detailed, personal feedback** gave me the **skills** and, more importantly, the **confidence to tackle any writing task**. I went from loathing a simple paragraph to graduating college with **two writing-intensive majors & a 100+ page research paper under my belt**.*

~ Matthew (Wh☺ Met His Future Wife in Amy's Classroom), **Vanderbilt Grad & Lawyer**

*I hope every homeschooler encounters the care of Mrs. Ruff, the **most optimistic ball of sunshine**. She has consistently **pushed us academically to wholeheartedly pursue our aspirations**. She **sees greatness in every student** whom she encounters & never shies away from **pushing students to reach their maximum potential**, helping them **improve writing skills, expand vocabulary, & deepen appreciation of literature**. An **hour of time with Mrs. Ruff** will produce a **10-fold return in the quality** of your work. Mrs. Ruff's Christ-like **kindness** & constant **encouragement** always result in her **student's success**.*

~ Bogdan & Natalia (Polish-American Siblings), **UNC-CH & International Design School**

*Mrs. Ruff's role in our lives has moved from teacher to what might well be described as a **highly qualified life coach**. From **teaching our first composition class to writing our teacher recommendations** for Duke & NCSU, Mrs. Ruff has been an excellent teacher & supporting figure, family friend, & academic mentor on everything from **excellent SAT/ACT prep to college-application essays**.... We are incredibly thankful for all Mrs. Ruff has done to prepare us for college.*

~ Jeffrey & Hannah (Siblings), **Duke Engineering Grad & NCSU Vet School Grad**

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Materials:

1. The **Summer Reading PDF** details summer-reading options.
2. The **Introduction to Lit Works of Study** details what works to purchase.
3. All registered students will receive the **following teaching docs** just before fall classes begin:
 - **Intro Lit Syllabus** • **Quick-Write (QW) Prompts** • **Outlines for the 5 Poetry Intensives**
 - **Prompts for Longer Lit-Analysis Papers** • **Outlines for the In-Class Writing Workshops**

Course Unit Value & Student Age: Unweighted 1 unit English/language arts for 7th through 10th grade.

Fine Print on Which Track to Take: Though listing **regular & honors** assignments below, **Mrs. Ruff defers to parents about what HW a student completes**, believing that parents are **in charge of & have the final say about the student's homeschool experience**; therefore, **any assignment on the syllabus may be omitted or customized as the parent sees fit or the student's schedule necessitates**.

Regular Track (RT): Work for RT students includes the following.

1. Follow the class **syllabus**.
2. **Read all lit works** by their due dates.
3. Take **2 quizzes on lit works**, depending on our lit-work selections.
4. Create several **quick writes (QWs)** in response to specific **lit-analysis prompts**.
5. Take **2 lit exams** which are **preceded by in-class review** with the **aid of exam study guides**.
6. In response to paper-prompt options, **write 2 papers of 3-5 pages** in length for which **students are amply prepared by Amy Ruff's in-class Writing Workshops**.
7. Take **class notes** in order to engage in **spirited class discussion** & easily accomplish 1-6 above.
8. **Follow regular-track directions on the Summer Reading PDF**.

Honors Track (HT): In addition to 2-7 above for RT, work for **HT students** includes the following.

1. **Maintain a 90+% average**.
2. **Lead team-analysis presentations**.
3. **Follow directions for HT students on the Summer Reading PDF**.
4. **Lead some small-group QWs**, practicing **collaborative analysis via Google Docs**.
5. In response to paper-prompt options, **write 3 papers of 3-7 pages** in length for which **students are amply prepared by Amy Ruff's In-Class Writing Workshops**; however, **if the average of papers 1-2 = 95+%, then the HT student is excused from writing Paper #3—unless the parent decides otherwise**.

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Bio:

Amy Ruff lives with her husband Brian next to her **beloved alma mater, Duke University**. When not spending time with her **precious grandchildren**, Amy enjoys teaching, tutoring, & test prepping students **in person** as well as **online** in her areas of specialty: SAT, ACT, & APs (AP Eng Lang & Lit, AP Hx, AP Psych); literary analysis; research & composition; Spanish; psychology; philosophy & religion; executive-function & study skills.

Having completed her **BA at Duke University with double majors in English & religion**, Amy also earned a **Certificate in Duke's rigorous interdisciplinary Women's Studies Program**. While an undergraduate & after graduation, Amy worked in **editing for the Duke University Press** & continues to **freelance edit**.

Intuitive and seasoned at identifying & developing the potential in her students, Amy's **energetic & engaging style** enables students to **grow in their knowledge of subject matter** while also **honing their critical-thinking skills & elevating their character**. Having **homeschooled her own children** through high school, Amy continues to **support the homeschooling community by offering group-class tutorials**.

Counseling students to **align self-understanding with their envisioned future**, Amy has aided many to **make wise choices** for their **post-high-school paths**. She has assisted students to **succeed on test prep & applications for acceptance** into a range of schools. From **Harvard, Duke, & Stanford** to **UNC & NCSU** to **community colleges across NC**, Amy's students **thrive in diverse academic, artistic, athletic, trade, & professional pursuits**.

Of **Argentine-Italian descent & hailing from Italian roots in Pittsburgh, PA**, Amy attended boarding prep school on a **full scholarship & received a college scholarship from the Spanish National Honor Society**. Amy continued her **Spanish studies at Duke** & served on **short-term missions as a Spanish interpreter**. From the **rudiments of grammar & vocabulary** to encounters with **cooking & dancing**, Sra. Amy's students **learn to love Latina language & culture!**

Always eager to serve her community, Amy is a supporter of **The Honor Foundation** (helping special-ops retirees, like Amy's deceased big brother who was a decorated Navy SEAL), volunteer with **local nonprofits**, board **VP for Feather in a Cap** drama troupe, & graduate of **REI (Racial Equity Institute) training**.

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Class Time/Location/Dates:

- Intro Lit is **Tues 2-3 PM 8/25-12/15/26 & 1/5-5/11/27** with breaks **10/13/26 fall, 11/24/26 Thanksgiving, & 3/9/27 spring.**
- Intro Lit is at **Grace Church** in room **#118**: 200 Sage Rd, Chapel Hill, across from Lowe's near 15-501/I-40.

Registration & Tuition: As follows, the non-refundable **registration** is due by **June** & tuition as $\frac{1}{2}$ in **Aug** & $\frac{1}{2}$ in **Jan**:

- Venmo** www.venmo.com/Amy-Ruff-8
- Zelle** under 919-219-4338
- Mail** check 1101 Anderson St 27705
- \$75 reg/\$850 tuition regular track**
- \$100 reg/\$900 tuition honors track**

Names: Student's _____ Parents' _____

Address: _____

Grade _____ Age _____ Emails: _____

Phones: Student's _____ Parents' _____

Introduction to Psychology 845-10 AM ☐ Honors Track \$100/900 ☐ AP \$150/1000		
American Lit 10-1115 AM ☐ Regular Track \$75/850 ☐ Honors Track \$100/900 ☐ AP \$150/1000		
Spanish I Registration/Tuition 1-2 PM Tues at Grace Church ☐ Regular Track \$75/800 ☐ Honors Track \$100/900	Spanish II Registration/Tuition 1115 AM-1210 PM Tues at Grace Church ☐ Regular Track \$75/850 ☐ Honors Track \$100/950	Spanish III Registration/Tuition Day/Time TBD ☐ Regular Track \$75/900 ☐ Honors Track \$100/1000
Middle School Composition 1210-1 PM Tues at Grace Church ☐ One Track Reg/Tuition \$100/1000		
Introduction to Literature 2-3 PM Tues at Grace Church ☐ Regular Track \$75/850 ☐ Honors Track \$100/900		
YWA Young Writers Adventure on Tues at Grace Church 3-345 PM ☐ One Track Reg/Tuition \$100/900		
YSA Young Spanish Adventure on Tues at Grace Church 345-430 PM ☐ One Track Reg/Tuition \$100/800		
Spanish IV TBD Day/Time	Registration/Tuition	☐ Honors Track \$100/1000
<u>Times for Amy's 2026-27 Classes – Hybrid classes are conducted in person & via Zoom (per student preference) *at Grace Church (unless specified otherwise):</u> *Tues/845-10 AM Intro Psych (regular & honors tracks; 8th-12th grades) *Tues/10-1115 AM American Lit (regular, honors, AP tracks; 8th-12th grades) *Tues/1115 AM-1210 PM Spanish II (regular & honors tracks; 7th-12th grades) *Tues/1210-1 PM Middle School Composition (one track; 6th-10th grades) *Tues/1-2 PM Spanish I (regular & honors tracks; 6th-11th grades) *Tues/2-3 PM Intro Lit (regular & honors; 6th-10th grades) *Tues/3-345 PM YWA Young Writers Adventure (ages 7-10) *Tues/345-430 PM YSA Young Spanish Adventure (ages 7-10) - TBD time/place Spanish III (regular & honors tracks; 8th-11th grades)		<u>Class Calendar 2026-27 Middle/High School:</u> 8/25/26 First Fall Tues 2026 Class 10/13/26 NO Class for Fall Break 11/24/26 NO Class for Thanksgiving Break 12/15/26 Last 2026 Tues Class 1/5/27 First 2027 Tues Class 3/9/27 NO Class for Spring Break 5/11/27 Last Class (Comp ends 4/27/27)
<u>YWA/YSA 2026-27 Class Calendar:</u> 9/8/26 First Fall Class • 10/13/26 NO Class Fall Break • 11/24/26 NO Class Thanksgiving • 12/1/26 Last Class • 1/12/27 First Class • 3/9/27 NO Class for Spring Break • 4/6/27 Last Class		