

2025 Fall Semester Ivy College Guru Accelerated English Class Syllabus

Sundays, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm from 9/7-12/22/2025

A 15-week Fall Semester Session; One Meeting Per Week

(No classes on the Thanksgiving weekend: 11/28 – 11/31)

I. Purpose of the program

I'm very fond of my students and want to do whatever I can to improve their chances at a bright and happy future. I wish to give them not only a step up in their preparation for high school and standardized testing but also a positive outlook on English in general so that they can excel in their regular classes and in life.

II. Major Contents of the program

The course will enhance students' grammar, vocabulary, and reading through targeted drills and discussion. The special theme this semester will be autobiography. We will read genuine autobiographies of famous writers, such as *Ake* (by Nobel Prize winner, Wole Soyinka) and *An American Childhood* (by Pulitzer Prize winner Annie Dillard), as well as semiautobiographical material, such as *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (by National Book Award winner, Sherman Alexie) and stories by Franz Kafka.

Another special focus of the class this semester will be AP Literature exam practice.

III. Textbooks and Study Materials

The class requires a number of books and other materials. You need to buy the classic novels.

1. 2025 Fall Semester *Accelerated English Study Guide*
2. *AP Lit* (pdf)
3. *Word Power Made Easy* (ISBN: 978-1101873854)
4. Classic novels:
 - The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie (ISBN: 978-0316013697)
 - An American Childhood* by Annie Dillard (ISBN: 978-0060915186)
 - Ake* by Wole Soyinka (ISBN: 978-0679725404)
 - The Sons* by Franz Kafka (ISBN: 978-0805208863)

IV. Schedule of the Advanced English Class

Class	Dates	Reading/Literature/Poems	Writing	Wordly Wise 11	AP Lit
1	9/7	Life and Works of T.S. Eliot T.S. Eliot's Poem "The Love Song of JF Proofrock" Life and Works of Alexie Sherman <i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i> by Alexie Sherman	AP English Essay Question 1 Intro	1-2	Introduction:
2	9/14	Adrienne Rich's Poem "Diving into the Wreck" Life and Works of Adrienne Rich	AP English Essay Question 2 Intro	3-4	Ch.1:

		<i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i> by Alexie Sherman			
3	9/21	Mary Oliver's Poem "Summer Day" <i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i> by Alexie Sherman	AP English Essay Question 3 Intro	1-4	Ch.2: Parts 1+2
4	9/26	WH Auden and William Carlos Williams' Poems in response to Breughel's <i>Icarus</i> Life and Works of Auden, Williams, Breughel <i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i> by Alexie Sherman	Essay due on <i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian</i>	5-6	Ch.2: Parts 3-5
5	10/3	"This Be the Verse" by Philip Larkin Life and Works of Philip Larkin, Annie Dillard <i>An American Childhood</i> by Annie Dillard	AP Lit essay practice	7-8	Ch.3
6	10/10	The Life and Works of Sylvia Plath Sylvia Plath poem "Ariel" <i>An American Childhood</i> by Annie Dillard	AP Lit essay practice	5-8	Ch.4: Part 1
7	10/17	The Life and Works of Robert Hayden Robert Hayden's Poem "Those Winter Sundays" <i>An American Childhood</i> by Annie Dillard	AP Lit essay practice	9-10	Ch.4 Part 2
8	10/24	Life and Works of Rainier Maria Rilke Rainier Maria Rilke's Poem "Autumn Day" and "Panther" <i>An American Childhood</i> by Annie Dillard	Essay due on <i>An American Childhood</i>	11-12	Ch.5
9	10/31	Life and Works of Pablo Neruda, Wole Soyinka Pablo Neruda's Poem "Ode to My Socks" <i>Ake</i> by Wole Soyinka	AP Lit essay practice	9-12	Ch.6: Part 1-2
10	11/7	Life and Works of Fernando Pessoa Fernando Pessoa Poem "Autopsychography" and "As to a Child, I Talked My Heart to Sleep" <i>Ake</i> by Wole Soyinka	AP Lit essay practice	13-14	Ch.6: Part 3-4
11	11/14	Life and Works of Czesław Miłosz, Poem "A Song on the End of the World," <i>Ake</i> by Wole Soyinka	Essay due on <i>Ake</i>	15-16	Ch.7
12	11/21	The Life and Works of Yusef Komunyakha Yusef Komunyakha poem "Blueberries" <i>Ake</i> by Wole Soyinka	AP Lit essay practice	13-16	Ch.8

13	12/5	Life and Works of Mahmoud Darwish Mahmoud Darwish Poem “Passport” <i>The Sons</i> by Franz Kafka	AP Lit essay practice	17-18	Ch.9
14	12/15	Life and Work of William Stafford Charles Baudelaire’s Poem “Correspondences” <i>The Sons</i> by Franz Kafka	Essay on <i>The Sons</i> due	19-20	Ch.10:
15	12/22	Life and Works of Saki Saki Story “The Interlopers” <i>The Sons</i> by Franz Kafka	Debate	16-20	Cumulative Review