

# Dramatic Writing: Senior English Course



## Quarter 1: Building a Writer's Community

During Q1 the course is all about personal writing and creative writing skills. We work to become a writing community, one where it's okay to be vulnerable, safe to share your work with others. We'll also learn how to give feedback in a nonjudgmental way. Lots of high-interest writing happens, including writing an original monologue. Also some focus on College Essay to help with the application process

## Quarter 2: Dramaturgy, Plays, and Playwriting

Q2 is all about plays. We'll learn about the concept of Dramaturgy -- the research that goes into producing a play. We will also write a short play in small groups. The first semester ends with pitching the original play to the teacher. We will watch/analyze the following film clips and films during this unit: Rudy (for characterization skills) & a film that began as a play (e.g. Harvey, Arsenic and Old Lace, Streetcar Named Desire). Guest speakers from the industry will come to speak with students as well. Titles of plays we've studied in the past include Almost, Maine, Lonely Planet, Streetcar Named Desire, Hamlet, Boys Next Door, Fences, Raisin in the Sun, A Doll's House, The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail...



## Quarter 3: Film Analysis and Screenplay Writing

Q3 is split into two parts: film viewing/analysis and writing an original screenplay (much shorter version than the pros). In the past we have studied such films as The Princess Bride, Spirited Away, Knives Out, and Black Panther during this unit. Students will also create the movie poster for their screenplays, and they will continue to refine their pitching skills.

## Quarter 4: The Television Pilot

Q4 is all about learning the short form and the long form of television shows. Students will work in groups to create the "Look Book" for a television pilot. We will closely study episodes and clips from Friends, Parks and Recreation, Modern Family, and Friday Night Lights. Students will also pitch their pilots to the class as a senior farewell -- very moving moment for all of us.

