



English 4 — Year-at-a-Glance

Standard & Honors Levels • 2026–2027 School Year

Course Overview

English 4 traces the British literary tradition from its earliest legends to its most defiant acts of dissent. Students open the year in the world of Anglo-Saxon heroism, studying *Beowulf* in both its original epic form and a graphic novel adaptation, then move into Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* to see how medieval storytelling gave voice to a wider range of English society. The year continues into the Renaissance and metaphysical periods, where students study either *The Tempest* or *Hamlet* and pair that study with poetry from various poets — examining how writers of the era wrestled with mortality, time, and the pull between earthly pleasure and eternal consequence. Students then turn to the rhetoric of resistance, studying Churchill's "We Shall Fight on the Beaches" alongside Gandhi's writing on nonviolent resistance and Swift's satirical "A Modest Proposal," to see how writers have used persuasion — earnest and ironic alike — to confront power. Students close their high school career with a unit on identity and belonging, applying a year of study to original narrative writing. Throughout, students refine the literary analysis, research, and rhetorical skills that prepare them for the reading and writing demands of college and career.

Honors Courses: These courses raise rigor through the addition of more complex texts, deeper analysis across themes and disciplines, and more challenging tasks — not simply more work.

Course Focus

English 4 gives students an integrated study of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language framed around the [Grade 12 Florida B.E.S.T. Standards for English Language Arts](#). Coursework includes:

- Reading widely and drawing logical inferences from texts
- Analyzing literature and informational texts for craft, structure, argument, and historical context
- Writing arguments, expository pieces, narratives, and research-based work
- Speaking, listening, and collaborating — using evidence to support or challenge ideas

Quarter-by-Quarter Focus

All English 4 teachers cover these standards using all or some of the spotlight texts below. Teachers may also add supplemental texts, lessons, and projects to reinforce the quarter's focus and extend learning. Standard codes (e.g., ELA.12.R.1.1) match the [Florida B.E.S.T. Standards for English Language Arts](#).

QUARTER 1 Heroes & Villains

Reading: Literary elements (ELA.12.R.1.1) · Theme (ELA.12.R.1.2) · Text Structure (ELA.12.R.2.1) · Summarizing (ELA.12.R.3.2) · Comparative Reading (ELA.12.R.3.3)

Writing: Literary Analysis (ELA.12.C.1.3)

Grammar: The Clean Edit (College & Career Readiness)

Vocabulary: Academic Vocabulary (ELA.12.V.1.1) · Morphology (ELA.12.V.1.2) · Context & Connotation (ELA.12.V.1.3)

Spotlight Texts:

- *from* Beowulf — Raffel trans. (epic poetry)
- *from* Beowulf — Gareth Hinds (graphic novel)
- "Beowulf is Back" — James Parker (article)
- The Canterbury Tales, "The Wife of Bath's Tale" — Geoffrey Chaucer (epic poetry)

QUARTER 2 Rewards & Consequences

Reading: Perspective & Point of View (ELA.12.R.1.3) · Poetry (ELA.12.R.1.4) · Figurative Language (ELA.12.R.3.1)

Writing: Research (ELA.12.C.4.1)

Grammar: Complex Text Mechanics (ELA.12.C.3.1)

Vocabulary: Academic Vocabulary (ELA.12.V.1.1) · Morphology (ELA.12.V.1.2) · Context & Connotation (ELA.12.V.1.3)

Spotlight Texts:

- The Tempest — Shakespeare (drama)
- Hamlet — Shakespeare (drama)
- *The Poetry of John Donne* — John Donne (poetry)
- *from "The Inferno"* — Dante (poetry)
- "The Second Coming" — William Yeats (poetry)
- "To His Coy Mistress" — Andrew Marvell (poetry)
- "To the Virgins..." — Robert Herrick (poetry)
- "Youth's The Season for Joy" — John Gay (poetry)

QUARTER 3 Rhetoric & Resistance

Reading: Central idea (ELA.12.R.2.2) · Author's Purpose (ELA.12.R.2.3) · Argument (ELA.12.R.2.4) · Rhetoric (ELA.12.R.3.4)

Writing: Literary Analysis (ELA.12.C.1.3)

Grammar: Authorial Voice & Intentional Choices (ELA.12.C.3.1)

Vocabulary: Academic Vocabulary (ELA.12.V.1.1) · Morphology (ELA.12.V.1.2) · Context & Connotation (ELA.12.V.1.3)

Spotlight Texts:

- "The Worms of the Earth Against the Lions," *from* A Distant Mirror — Barbara W. Tuchman (historical narrative)
- "A Modest Proposal" — Jonathan Swift (satire)
- "Defending Nonviolent Resistance" — Mohandas K. Gandhi (treatise)
- "We Shall Fight on the Beaches" — Winston Churchill (speech)

QUARTER 4 Identity & Belonging

Reading: All tested Grade 12 B.E.S.T. Standards are reviewed this quarter.

Writing: Narrative (ELA.12.C.1.2)

Grammar: Execution & Final Review (ELA.12.C.3.1)

Vocabulary: Academic Vocabulary (ELA.12.V.1.1) · Morphology (ELA.12.V.1.2) · Context & Connotation (ELA.12.V.1.3)

Texts: Chosen by your student's school team from Unit 5 ("Discovering the Self") and Unit 6 ("Finding Home") — contact your student's teacher for specifics.

Longer Works Students May Study

Teachers may also assign longer works in full. These titles are approved by the Florida Department of Education for English 4. Any work outside the District's adopted resource, *myPerspectives Florida* (Savvas 2026), or the B.E.S.T. Sample Text List goes through the District's novel-approval process before instructional use. Teachers are expected to share with families information about studies of longer works at least two weeks before each study begins. This list is not comprehensive; see the [Florida B.E.S.T. Standards for English Language Arts](#) for more information.

<i>myPerspectives</i> — Abridged List of Extended Works	Grade 12 B.E.S.T. Sample List — Abridged List of Extended Works
• <i>1984</i> — Orwell • <i>Beowulf</i> — Raffel, trans. • <i>Brave New World</i> — Huxley • <i>The Bluest Eye</i> — Morrison • <i>The Buried Giant</i> — Ishiguro • <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> — Chaucer • <i>Dubliners</i> — Joyce • <i>The Essays, or Counsels, Civil and Moral</i> — Bacon • <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> — Swift • <i>Howard's End</i> — Forester • <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> — Wilde • <i>Jude the Obscure</i> — Hardy • <i>A Modern Utopia</i> — Wells • <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> — Woolf • <i>The Once and Future King</i> — White • <i>Paradise Lost</i> — Milton • <i>Paradise Regained</i> — Milton • <i>The Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> — Joyce • <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i> — James • <i>The Secret Sharer and Other Stories</i> — Conrad • <i>The Tempest</i> — Shakespeare • <i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i> — Hardy • <i>The Things They Carried</i> — O'Brien • <i>Wuthering Heights</i> — Bronte	• <i>19 Poems</i> — Dickenson • <i>Don Quixote</i> — Cervantes • <i>Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions</i> — Abbott • <i>Hamlet</i> — Shakespeare • <i>Heart of Darkness</i> — Conrad • <i>King Lear</i> — Shakespeare • <i>Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time</i> — Sobel • <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> — Austen • <i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead</i> — Stoppard • <i>Utopia</i> — More

Questions about your student's English 4 course? Reach out to their teacher any time.