

The English 4 course asks students to closely analyze world literature and consider how we humans define and interact with the unknown, the monstrous, and the heroic. In the epic poems *The Odyssey*, *Beowulf*, and *The Inferno*, in Shakespeare’s *Tempest*, in the satire of Swift, and in the rhetoric of World War II, students examine how the ideas of “heroic” and “monstrous” have been defined across cultures and time periods and how the treatment of the “other” can make monsters or heroes of us all.

Reading *Frankenstein* and works from those who experienced the imperialism of the British Empire, students explore the notion of inner monstrosity and consider how the dominant culture can be seen as monstrous in its ostensibly heroic goal of enlightening the world.

Throughout this course, students analyze a wide range of literature, both fiction and nonfiction. They build writing skills by composing analytical essays, persuasive essays, personal narratives, and research papers. In order to develop speaking and listening skills, students participate in discussions and prepare speeches. Overall, students gain an understanding of the way world literature represents the array of voices that contribute to our global identity.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Monsters and Heroes

Unit 2: Sins and Crimes

Unit 3: *The Tempest*

Unit 4: Swift and Defoe

Unit 5: Semester Wrap-Up

Unit 6: *Frankenstein*

Unit 7: World War II

Unit 8: The Colonizers and the Colonized

Unit 9: The Modern and the Media

Unit 10: Semester Wrap-Up