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

- The Monstrous Cyclops
- A Hero's Story
- The Dimensions of the Monster
- Wrap-Up: Monsters and Heroes

Unit 2: Sins and Crimes

- Chaucer
- Dante's Inferno, Part I
- Dante's Inferno, Part II
- Wrap-Up: Sins and Crimes

Unit 3: The Tempest

- Historical Context
- Language as Power
- Interpretations of The Tempest
- Wrap-Up: The Tempest

Unit 4: Swift and Defoe

- Swift and Satire
- Robinson Crusoe, Part I
- Robinson Crusoe, Part II
- Wrap-Up: Swift and Defoe

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Unit 5: Semester Wrap-Up

- Wrap Up

Unit 6: Frankenstein

- Creating a Monster
- Conflicting Sides
- Monstrous Risks
- Wrap-Up: Frankenstein

Unit 7: World War II

- Winston Churchill
- Joseph Stalin
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- Wrap-Up: World War II

Unit 8: The Colonizers and the Colonized

- Reflections on Imperialism
- Surprising Perspectives
- Gender Imperialism
- Wrap-Up: The Colonizers and the Colonized

Unit 9: The Modern and the Media

- The Evolution of British Drama
- Media Perspectives
- Procedural and Informational Texts
- Wrap-Up: The Modern and the Media

Unit 10: Semester Wrap-Up

- Semester Wrap-Up

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