

Ms. Klassen

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Room: 422

## English 8 Course Outline

**Overview:** Welcome to **English 8!** The objective of this course is to investigate, inquire, discuss, and interpret the following big ideas:

- Language and text can be a source of creativity and joy.
- Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.
- People understand text differently depending on their worldviews and perspectives.
- Texts are socially, culturally, and historically constructed.
- Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.

More information can be found at this link: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/english-language-arts/8>

### **Curricular Competencies:**

- Comprehend and Connect (reading, listening, viewing)
- Create and Communicate (writing, speaking, representing)

**Content:** Our units of study are:

- Short Stories
- Genre-Based Literature Circles
- Poetry
- The Outsiders (Novel Study)
- Media Literacy

**Health and Safety:** Please enter Argyle at the main entrance and wash your hands before entering room 422. Masks are required in all high-traffic areas (such as hallways). You are welcome to wear a mask in the classroom.

**Online Connections:** All class communication and assignments will be posted on Microsoft Teams. Please take the time to refamiliarize yourself with this platform and ask lots of questions! If you are absent because of illness or isolation, I expect you to keep up with class work via Teams.

**Quarter System:** Our English 8 class will take place over approximately 9 weeks. Attendance and consistent engagement is extremely important.

**Learning Expectations:** Please bring a silent reading book to class every day. You should also expect to engage in reading outside of class and throughout the year.

I expect you to behave in a mature manner appropriate for our class. I am here to guide, motivate, and teach you, but you are responsible for your own learning. Take the initiative, ask for help when you need it, and engage in the course.

**Course Materials** : Please bring each of the following to every class. Note that sharing of materials between students is not permitted.

- (1.) 3- ring binder with paper or notebook
- (2.) Pen/pencil, highlighter
- (3.) A personal planner or agenda
- (4.) A personal book for silent reading

### Main Class Rules:

- (1.) Treat others **respectfully** – do not threaten, make fun of, or make personal attacks on others.
- (2.) When someone in the class is speaking in a discussion, everyone else must be **listening** .
- (3.) All major assignments must be completed satisfactorily to pass the course.
- (4.) If you are not in your seat ready to go when the bell rings, you are late.
- (5.) Try your best. Do not hand in other people's work. Do not copy other students' work or plagiarize.
- (6.) If you *need* to leave the class – raise your hand and ask me before leaving.
- (7.) Keep your cell phone in your bag. Do not use it during class time UNLESS you have checked with me about using it for some educational purpose.
- (8.) Food and drink is limited to simple snacks (i.e. a granola bar) and other beverages.
- (9.) Keep the class clean. Leave the classroom the same way it was when you arrived.
- (10.) At the end of the period, wait in your seat to be dismissed.

**Assessment:** Letter grades are given for all assignments. Quizzes will be marked on a numeric total and then converted to the appropriate letter grade. Rubrics are handed out for all assignments. Students are encouraged to ask questions about the rubric to help guide their work.

### Evaluation Breakdown

- Comprehend and Connect (50%)
  - Ex: Comprehension questions and plot diagrams, formal and informal writing, projects, assignments, text analysis, etc.
- Create and Communicate (50%)
  - Ex: Formal and informal writing, creative writing and projects, presentations, sentence structure, punctuation and grammar conventions, etc.

**\*Please review the guidelines for academic honesty in the student handbook.**

### General Written Work Requirements:

- 12pt font (Times New Roman or Arial), double spaced
- Your name, period, and date at the top left corner
- Include a unique title for paragraphs and assignments

**Tutorial Times:** I am available for extra help and review Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00-9:30, and Thursdays 8:30-9:30. You can drop in at any time, although it is helpful if you are able to give me notice you are coming. Please see me for ANY clarification on assignments, review of completed assignments or general questions.

A NOTE TO PARENTS/ GUARDIANS:
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Please do not hesitate to contact me at school (604 -903-3300 ext 422) or by email ([hklassen@sd44.ca](mailto:hklassen@sd44.ca)) if you have any questions/concerns regarding the progress of your child. I look forward to working with you this school year!