

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8 COURSE OUTLINE

Teacher: Ms. K. Lane

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Tutorial Hours: Mon/Wed. 9:00am – 9:30am

By appointment – before/after school, lunchtime

INTRODUCTION

The new curriculum for Grades 8 through 12 is grouped under three core competencies: *Communication, Thinking, and Personal and Social Competency*, and mandated by the provincial government.

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.

Read more about BC's new curriculum and curricular competencies for this course at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum>

COURSE CONTENT

1. The Short Story – various selections
2. The Novel – *The Outsiders*
3. Poetry – selections from *Poetry in Focus* and other sources
4. Language – selections and exercises from *Language Power: Book F* and other sources

Grammar, language usage, and editing skills will be incorporated into the above units.

MATERIALS FOR CLASS

- three ring binder for English only (2")
- **6 dividers labelled as follows:** 1) Literary Terms, 2) Short Stories, 3) Writing, 4) Novel, 5) Poetry, 6) Grammar/Mechanics,
- lined paper
- pens (blue/black, red), pencils, highlighter, eraser/white out,
- pencil sharpener, small ruler
- novel (silent reading)

TIMETABLE

The 2020-2021 school year is divided into quarters of approximately 42 days. In Stage 2, English Language Arts 8 classes are approximately 2 hours 20 minutes each and fully face-to-face. A short 5-10 min break(s) will be built into each class.

MICROSOFT TEAMS

All students are added to the class channel on MS Teams. I will use Teams for posting class handouts, study notes, assignments, supplementary reading material, and other resources. In the event that students are ill or are required to self-isolate, they will be able to access class materials and keep up with the class.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is the systematic gathering of information about what students know, are able to do, and are working toward. Assessment may include:

Impromptu writing	Holistic rating scales	Daily classwork	Oral language
Creative writing	Quizzes/unit tests	Class participation	Self-assessment
Reader Response journals	Reading comprehension	Group work	
Writing assignments	Projects	Presentations	

REPORTING

Every effort you put into the course is important. Evaluation of your work will be based on the following:

Writing assignments	30-40%	In Class work	15-20%
Tests and quizzes	20-30%	Participation	5-10%

All course work will receive a letter grade. Your **final course standing** is a letter grade based on your *accumulated* marks at the end of the Quarter.

86 - 100 A
73 - 85 B
67 - 72 C+
60 - 66 C
50 - 59 C-
40 - 49 D
0 - 39 E

"I" (INCOMPLETE) POLICY

If a student is experiencing **difficulty with course material**, or is **getting a failing grade**, or is **not demonstrating sufficient learning** to pass the term, the student will receive an "I" (Incomplete) to indicate *risk* of failure in the course. *One warning* ("I" Report) will be given per student per quarter.

K. Lane

September, 2020

Argyle Secondary

English 8 – Classroom Expectations and Guidelines

“Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing.” – Harper Lee

Words to Remember:

- **Respect** – for people, property, learning, and ideas
- **Responsibility** – to complete assignments, be on time, find out missed work, track your progress

Learning Goals:

English is a skill-based course – we become better at reading, writing, and speaking over time with much practice. This is not something to be mastered in a few months of school, but something to work on throughout your life!

Your learning goals for this course are to be able to

- Make sense of literary texts and uncover the understandings that live within them.
- Engage in meaningful, respectful, and purposeful academic discussion.
- Communicate your thinking with clarity and effectiveness.

Demonstrating Your Learning

You will have the opportunity to demonstrate your learning in a variety of ways throughout this course:

Comprehending and Connecting (Reading, Listening, Viewing)

- This includes reading comprehension activities and your ability to make connections with other texts.

Creating and Communicating (Writing, Speaking, Presenting)

- This includes responding to literature and creating original works. This can be done in writing, through a visual representation, or an oral presentation.

Here is an example of how to format your page:

Jane Brown

September 14, 2020

English 8 – Period 1

A Vacation to Remember

Writing would start here and would continue double-spaced. This makes it much easier for your teacher to read and provide feedback. Thank you!

Please refrain from bringing to class...

- Food (You will have a 10 minute break each class {outside the classroom} to have your snack), pop, juice, phones (must stay in your bags)
- **Please Note: Our classroom is a nut-free environment. Please ensure that nothing which contains nuts leaves your bag at any time during class.**

Please bring to class...

- A binder, blue/black pen, pencil, eraser/whiteout, lined paper, water bottle (filled), a keytab notebook (for journal/response writing), a novel of your choice for free reading

Contact Information:

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