

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 9 COURSE OUTLINE

Teacher: Ms. K. Lane
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Tutorial Hours: Tues/Thurs. 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 the curricular competencies for this course at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum>

COURSE CONTENT

1. The Short Story
2. The Novel – *In the Heat of the Night*
3. Poetry
4. Shakespeare – *Julius Caesar*
5. Language – selections and exercises from *Language Power: Book G* and other sources

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

MATERIALS FOR CLASS

- separate three ring binder for English only
- **7 dividers labelled as follows:** 1) *In the Heat of the Night* 2) Short Stories, 3) Writing/Literary Terms 4) *Julius Caesar* 5) Poetry, and 6) Grammar/Mechanics 7) Word Roots
- lined paper
- pens (blue/black, red), pencils, highlighter, eraser/white out,
- pencil sharpener, small ruler
- novel (silent reading)
- thin Hilroy (or similar) notebook for journal writing

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
Creative writing	Quizzes/unit tests	Class participation
Reader Response journals	Reading comprehension	
Writing assignments		

EVALUATION

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

1. Summative tests and writing assignments (marked for content, organization, style, and mechanics) - 50% of the term mark
2. Formative tests and quizzes – 30%
3. Informal written work (e.g. in-class exercises, activities) – 20%

All course work will receive a letter grade. Your **final course standing** is a letter grade based on your **accumulated** marks for all reporting periods.

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, he/she will receive an “I” (Incomplete) to indicate risk of failure in the course. One warning (“I” Report) will be given per student per year.

Classroom Expectations and Responsibilities

ABSENCES

Attendance is compulsory. **No matter what the reason for missing class, students are responsible for obtaining and completing class assignments** and meeting course learning objectives, content, and curricular competencies. It is the student's responsibility to find out about, and make arrangements for any work missed due to absence. Contact a reliable classmate to determine the classwork and to obtain missed notes. Parents/guardians and the administration will be notified of any and all unacceptable absences from class.

IF A STUDENT IS ABSENT FOR A TEST:

The student must provide a legitimate reason for an absence (e.g. note from the parents/guardians). If such proof is not forthcoming, and it is proven that the student was skipping class, he or she may get a ZERO on that assessment at the teacher's discretion. If the absence has been authorized, the student may write a make-up test or assessment (e.g. an alternate test/assignment designed to cover the same learning objectives).

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments must be submitted at the **beginning of class** on the due date. Extensions are at the discretion of the teacher. It is expected that students will submit all assignments and complete all tests in order to pass this course.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

According to our school policy, "cheating, plagiarism, and academic dishonesty are serious concerns and are not acceptable at Argyle" (*Argyle Student Agenda*, 22). Plagiarism is defined as "**the act of claiming another person or source's words and/or ideas as one's own.**" Some actions that are considered plagiarism include: copying or imitating the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author or student; turning in assignments, homework, or other material which was copied or acquired from another student as their own original work; knowingly sharing your work to be copied or used by another student; allowing another student to view one's test or exam; and failing to cite or document quoted or paraphrased material or ideas written by someone else, including the internet. For these and more examples refer to *Argyle Student Agenda Book*.

The accessibility of the Internet makes plagiarism very tempting, and unintentional plagiarism occurs from this as well. Any form of cheating, plagiarism or academic dishonesty may result in **NO CREDIT FOR THE WORK OR ASSIGNMENT** at the teacher's discretion. **All written work needs to be yours.** If you have an **English tutor**, please be aware that **handing in work that is clearly enhanced or written by someone more skilled in English than you will result in NO CREDIT FOR THE WORK OR ASSIGNMENT.** A significant portion of the English mark is based on the writing process. Students are expected to show all rough work and drafts to demonstrate course learning outcomes.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

At Argyle we believe that maintaining a respectful atmosphere is important to academic achievement and citizenship. This applies to electronic devices as well (e.g. cell phone, MP3). In the English department, we especially value face-to-face communication. Consequently, during instructional time, students may NOT use mobile devices without **explicit and prior teacher permission**.

RESPECT

Each student has the right to learn and no one has the right to interfere with or disrupt this learning process (Argyle Student Agenda, 19). You are expected to show consideration for all of your classmates, teachers, and support staff, and respect divergent points of view that will arise in classroom discussions and activities. Lack of respect for others or their property will not be tolerated.

I am always willing and available for extra help and clarifications.

Remember, have a good attitude and learning will come easy.

Let's have fun and enjoy the quarter.