

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8 COURSE OUTLINE

Teacher: Mr. G. Karvelis

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Tutorial Hours: Daily (8:30am-9:10am) in Room E213

Students are encouraged to book an appointment with me in order to ensure that I am available to them and not already assisting a different student.

INTRODUCTION

The new curriculum for English 8 is grouped under 3 Core Competencies: **communication, thinking and personal and social competency**. These are mandated by The Ministry of Education.

BIG IDEAS

- Language and text can be a source of creativity and joy.
 - It's ok to read and write for enjoyment!
- Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.
 - Stories, plays, and poems often have a greater meaning that we can reflect upon in our everyday lives.
- Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.
 - If you are not able to ask questions and draw educated conclusions from what you read/hear/see, then you are probably going to have difficulties identifying what is true/false in the world you live in.

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES/GOALS

The English Language Arts curriculum is designed to empower students to:

- Become proficient and knowledgeable users of language.
- Use an increasing repertoire of conventions of Canadian spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
- Think creatively, critically, and reflectively about language and texts.
- Respond to text in personal, creative, and critical ways.
- Recognize how literary elements, techniques, and devices enhance and shape meaning (things like symbolism, irony, theme, conflict, and tone).

CONTENT

- Drama: Students will read two short plays from In Context 2.
- Short Stories: Students will read a handful of short stories from In Context 2.
- Novels: Students will read Lois Duncan's Killing Mr. Griffin.
- Poetry: Students will read and analyze a number of poems and also create a poetry portfolio.
- Compositions: Students will write creative stories as well as formal literary paragraphs.
- Oral Presentation: Students will analyze the song of their choice and present orally to the class.

- Grammar, language usage, and editing skills—lots of worksheets!

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MATERIALS NEEDED FOR EVERY CLASS

- Binder AND paper
- FOUR Dividers: Grammar, Fiction, Poetry, Writing
- Pen or pencil
- Text (whatever novel we are reading)

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Any assignment that is over one-week late will receive a mark, but it will not receive any feedback.

The only time you cannot receive full marks for an assignment is if the assignment's answers have been discussed in class. You can still submit for partial marks, or you can request a different assignment.

STUDENT ABSENCE

If you are ever absent from class, **YOU must take the initiative** to make arrangements for missed tests, assignments etc. **The onus is on the student to remain up to date with all assignments.** An absence does not exclude a student from any assigned work.

Send me a quick email gkarvelis@sd44.ca to find out what you missed that day!

ELECTRONICS

At the start of each class, students are to leave their cell-phones in their designated spot at the front of the class.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Any student caught plagiarizing or cheating will receive a zero for that assignment and will not be given an opportunity to make up the mark.

RESPECT

Any form of discrimination, bullying, and/or disrespect will not be tolerated. Everyone has the right to feel safe, equal, and valued. This is non-negotiable.

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL

- attend classes regularly and make efficient use of class time
- complete all assigned work to the best of your ability
- try to spend a few minutes to read/review on a nightly basis
- seek help when needed
- respect yourself and others

EVALUATION

Students will be assessed based on their performance on various assignments and tests.

EXTENDING:

- Superior/outstanding in all aspects
- Effectively uses class time and does not disrupt others
- Goes above and beyond for all assignments
- Shares thoughts with fellow classmates
- Submits/completes assignments by the DUE DATE
- Demonstrates HIGHER LEVEL (critical) thinking when analyzing text
- Sophisticated writing skills:
 - Uses a variety of sentences structure and lengths
 - Makes effective use of detail and description
 - Supports arguments with specific examples
 - Puts thought into word choice

PROFICIENT:

- **Independently** and **consistently** demonstrates an understanding of the learning outcomes:
 - Can write a coherent paragraph that is properly structured and is supported by specific examples.
 - Demonstrates the ability to proficiently comprehend and analyze text.

DEVELOPING:

- **At times** demonstrates an understanding of the learning outcomes.