

English Language Arts 9: Course Outline (Fall, 2024)



Teacher: Mr. Truman

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Office Location/Hours: Room 110 - Hours after school or by appointment

Course Description

The English Language Arts 9 curriculum is designed to have students practice strong communication skills, an understanding and appreciation of language and literature, and the capacity to engage fully as literate and responsible citizens in a digital age. Students are guided in their learning to think critically, creatively, and reflectively; to construct a sense of personal and cultural identity; and to be respectful of a range of perspectives and worldviews. Students will build on the foundational skills needed to succeed in upper level English language classes. In particular, students will work on their writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills while developing positive personal and cultural identities, communication, and critical thinking competencies.

Unit	Big Idea(s)	About
Story Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ People understand texts differently depending on their worldviews and perspectives.➤ Language and story can be a source of creativity and joy.	In this unit, students will read various short texts to learn, recognize, and analyze story elements that authors use to build meaning. Students will also practice their writing skills by composing expository paragraphs about a short story that we will read.
Novel Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and the world.	In this unit, students will be reading a novel to recognize and analyze story elements built into a longer form of text. The text is meant to encourage students to think about the different milestones encountered on the journey to growing up. Students will also be composing a presentation on an area related to one of the chosen novel's themes.
Figurative Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Texts are socially, culturally, and historically constructed.	In this introductory unit, we will be looking at poetry and learning to recognize the different types of figurative language used in it. Students will also compose a simple poem themselves using figurative language.
Visual Media & Response Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.	Students will be exposed to various visual images and advertisements to hone their understanding of visual media. They will also practice their writing with responses to the media that they are viewing.

Assessment

The purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning. Assessment and evaluation are based on the provincial curriculum expectations and achievement levels. Students will be completing a number of different forms of assessment. This is broken down as follows:

- **In-class Work** - 10%
- **Minor Assignments/Quizzes** - 30%
- **Major Assignments/Tests** - 60%

Class Expectations

Classroom Behaviour

- **Be respectful** - Respect yourself and all others. This includes property, ideas, space, etc.
- **Be on time** - Come to class on time.
- **Be prepared** - Bring all your material with you, prepared to work for the entire class period.
- **Be mindful** - Please handle food, drinks, and electronics appropriately. Follow directions the first time they are given. If you don't understand any instructions, please ask for clarification. In the event that you finish work early, pull out your independent reading, or any other homework you may need to complete.

Absences

If you are absent from class, you are still responsible for any missing assignments. Please check Google Classroom for any notes or handouts you missed. If you have an excused absence, you will be able to make up in-class assignments, quizzes, and/or tests, provided that you complete them **within a reasonable time frame**. Otherwise, no marks will be granted.

NOTE: All phones must be stored in your assigned locker and are not permitted in class.