



Home of the MHS Tigers

Mayerthorpe Junior Senior High School

Language Arts 8 and 9 Room 120

Course Outline 2019-2020

Mr. S. Law

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Overview:

The aim of English language arts is to enable each student to understand and appreciate language, and to use it confidently and competently in a variety of situations for communication, personal satisfaction and learning. Students become confident and competent users of all six language arts through many opportunities to listen and speak, read and write, and view and represent in a variety of combinations and relevant contexts. **All the language arts are interrelated and interdependent; facility in one strengthens and supports the others.** In the outcomes of the program of studies, the six language arts are integrated.

Students will:

- 1) Explore thoughts, ideas, feelings and experiences
- 2) Comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, print, and other media texts.
- 3) Manage ideas and information
- 4) Enhance clarity and artistry of communication
- 5) Respect, support and collaborate with others

Students will apply their language arts skills in other subject areas and other aspects of their lives.

Materials Required:

3 ring binder-divided into six sections

Colored Pencils

Loose Leaf paper

Red Pen

Blue or Black pens

Highlighters

Textbooks:

In Context II – Resource Textbook

Crossroads 8 – Resource Textbook

Darksiders – Novel

Tunnel in the Sky – Novel

Classroom Expectations

In order for our classroom to be a positive learning community, we all need to respect each other's right to learn and teach. All students in our class are capable of success in science if we all follow these basic expectations:

1. **ARRIVE ON TIME AND PREPARED, EVERYDAY.** You will need your binder, textbook, blue pen, red pen, pencil, eraser, highlighter, ruler and agenda. There is no excuse for leaving these items at home because you know you have LA class every day. It is disrespectful and disruptive to the teacher and your fellow classmates to arrive late or unprepared. Time wasted by late arrival or unprepared arrival will be made up for at noon.
2. **RESPECT** is an essential part of working in a learning community:
 - a. All students are expected to respect each other and the teacher, as well as all property and equipment. Name-calling, teasing, inappropriate language, damage to property, will not be tolerated. Inappropriate behaviour will be dealt with immediately. Further incidents will be handled more sternly and may involve parents and administration.
 - b. Use class time effectively and complete your work on time. Misuse of class time will result in less class time to work on assignments, etc. Misuse of time may also result in making up for that time at lunch hour.
 - c. Do not talk when someone else is talking, whether it is the teacher or a classmate. You want to be heard when you are speaking and it is expected you would demonstrate the same respect.
3. This is **YOUR** learning environment! A neat and tidy classroom makes the learning experience more enjoyable and safe for everyone. You are responsible for maintaining your personal space and the classroom in general. Please clean up after yourself.
4. Inform the teacher if you know you are going to be absent so you can complete missed work on your own time. If you are absent unexpectedly, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from the teacher or a classmate and get caught up.

5. If you are struggling or unsure of a concept, please speak with the teacher immediately. The longer you wait, the further behind you find yourself! I will always do my best to make myself available for extra help but you have to ask.
6. Cell phones are not permitted in the classroom unless the teacher has given permission for an activity that requires them. Keep them turned off and out of sight.

Units to be Studied. Order of units studied will vary depending on the availability of textbooks.

*Encounters Short Story Unit (September – October)

This unit will allow students to explore some issues through their reading and personal responses. This unit will allow students to discover that there is a different viewpoint to each story. Students will have a chance to discuss different outcomes to various encounters.

*Novel Study #1 Darksiders (November – December)

Through the examination of a novel, students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the complex and detailed writing of a novel. They will apply their knowledge of the book towards a project at the end of the unit.

* Writing Unit (January)

This unit deals with the five stages in the writing process. Students will practice and engage in what exactly is involved at each stage resulting in a variety of written work.

Textbook: *In Context 2*

*Popular Culture Textbook: *Crossroads* (February – March)

This unit will explore what popular culture means in our society. We will look at different forms of popular culture throughout history. Short stories, magazines, music, newspaper tabloids and internet will all be examined. Final project will be a power point.

*Poetry Textbook: *Crossroads, In Context 2*, handouts. (April)

Common poetic forms will be reviewed and new poetic forms will be introduced.

Final Project-Poetry Booklet

*Novel Study #2 *Tunnel in The Sky*. (May)

See Novel #1 for more information. *The Outsiders*, will be shown at the end of the unit.

*Film Study *Harry Potter and The Philosopher Stone*. (June)

This unit will explore individual film shots, camera movement, camera angles, lighting styles, colour, sound effects.

Assessment for Learning

Throughout a unit students will be assessed using the method known as “assessment for learning.” These assessments are done by the teacher in the form of quizzes, rough draft corrections, group project assessments, etc. An assessment for learning is not based on a numbered grade or a percentage. Instead, an assessment for learning provides the students with written, guided feedback from a teacher. The feedback from these assignments will help students be better prepared for assessments that will be brought in for marks in the future.

Evaluation

Daily Assignments/projects	50%
Quizzes	10%
Creative Writing	25%
Final Exam	15%

Homework:

Efforts will always be made to provide ample time to complete course work but sometimes, more time is required and homework is a necessity. Late assignments will be completed at noon.

Any parent wishing to meet with me to discuss a problem or concern may arrange a meeting by calling the school or emailing at donald.moon@ngps.ca Any student wishing to request extra help or wishing to discuss a problem or concern can speak with me at school. I will do my best to make myself available for extra help.

To Parents and Students:

Please sign below to indicate that you have read and understand the **Language Arts 8** course requirements. Also, please include an email address that I may reach you at in order to inform you of upcoming projects, assignments and examinations. Thank you, please detach this section and return to class.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Parents email address