

Mayerthorpe Junior Senior High School

English Language Arts 8 Room 114

Course Outline 2022-2023

Mrs. K. Lewis

katherine.lewis@ngps.ca



Overview:

The aim of the English Language Arts (ELA) course 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 5-6 sections, loose leaf paper, pencils, pens, erasers, and highlighters

Textbooks:

Resource Textbook- Sightlines 8

Novel Study- OCDaniel

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 ELA if we all follow these basic expectations:

1. ARRIVE ON TIME AND PREPARED, EVERYDAY. There is no excuse for leaving these items at home because you know you have ELA 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. Any student who misses 25% of the class will be marked absent.
2. RESPECT is an essential part of working in a learning community:
 - a. All students are expected to respect themselves, 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 or during support time.
 - 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 at ANYTIME! Phones that are being used during class time will be taken to the office and students can pick them at the end of the day.

Assessment for Learning Policy:

Many in class assignments will be used to assess student progress in class. These are low stakes and intended to provide constructive feedback. Many of these assessments will include written constructive comments for improvement from the teacher. It is expected that students complete all of these assignments.

Cheating:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating or participating in plagiarism will receive a grade of zero for the assessment in question. Parents and administration will be contacted.

Appeals Process:

Should a situation arise where a student is not satisfied with an assessment outcome, first discuss the matter with the teacher outside of class time. If the teacher and the student are unable to resolve the issue, then the teacher will approach another teacher to assess the assignment. (The teacher will not have prior knowledge of the student's name or the previous grade for the given assignment). If there is still an issue, a meeting will be set up between the student,

teacher, parents, and administration to resolve the matter. The commencement of an appeal must occur in a timely manner; within 48 hours of receiving the marked assignment. In return, the appeal process will be completed as soon as possible.

Please see student agenda for more detailed appeals information

Bus Days:

Grades sevens and eights will be required to check their google classroom for assignments posted on bus days

Units of Study:

Order of units studied will vary depending on the availability of textbooks and resources.

- Conventions: Students will learn new conventions, grammar, and parts of speech vocabulary and skills that will further enhance their writing and reading skills.
- Novel Study: *OCDaniel*: 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 and writing elements towards projects and assignments. Students will learn about mental health issues in relation to teenagers and how these issues affect children's lives and families. Students will understand the effects of these issues as it pertains to young people.
- Film Study and Visual Communication: This unit will explore individual film shots, camera movement, camera angles, lighting styles, colour, sound effects. Students will compare films by analyzing characters, conflicts, relationships, and story arch. Students will also learn about the media influences that surround them everyday and how to filter the information they receive from it. Students will become critical of the way high school is portrayed in Hollywood films by examining 4 films and their inaccuracies.
- Short Stories: 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 challenges, conflicts, and consequences of choices. Students will share their understanding through writing assignments and group projects.
- Poetry: Students will learn a variety of types of poems as well as literary devices that will further their reading comprehension skills. This unit will introduce students to the work of poetry as a creative outlet for emotion, as

well as show students the value of descriptive language.

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.

Any parent wishing to meet with me to discuss a problem or concern may arrange a meeting by calling the school or emailing at katherine.lewis@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.

Course Evaluation

Assignments.....40%

Quizzes.....15%

Unit Final Projects/Tests.....25%

Final Exam.....20%