



PREREQUISITES

None

COURSE MATERIALS/RESOURCES

In order to be successful in this course you will need to come to class with the following materials *everyday*: a 3-ring binder with loose leaf and dividers, a pencil, eraser, glue, blue pen, red pen, pencil crayons or markers, dictionary (optional). You will be required to bring a novel and your interactive notebook to every class to read.

COURSE OUTLINE

<i>We will try to stick to the outline below...</i>
Sept: Pizza box Autobiography
Oct: Short Story – Monsters on Maple St.
Nov: Class Book Report – The Giver
Dec: Class Book Report – The Giver
<i>Christmas Break</i>
Jan: Reading Informational Text
Feb: Research Paper/Essays
March: Short story – The Landlady
April: Writing Notebooks
May: Children’s Book
June: Children’s Book oral presentation

Weekly set up...

Monday/Wednesday/Friday: The first 15-20mins will be spent silent reading their novel.

Tuesdays/Thursday: The first 15-20mins will be spent writing (free write, story starters, etc)

Spelling Tests and Pre-test. Work will be assigned. Day 1 for Grade 8’s. Day 5 for Grade 7’s.

Day 3: Grammar

Monthly book reports will be due the last

COURSE EVALUATION

The grade 7/8 English Language Arts course will include the concepts of reading, writing, speaking, listening viewing and reflecting. To accommodate these concepts, the course will be divided into the following components:

1. Reading
2. Spelling
3. Theme work (listed to the left)
4. Writing
5. Oral work

Students will follow a number of topics throughout the year acquiring and meeting educational outcomes for each grade. General outcomes are as follows:

Grade 7/8

- 1.) General Outcome 1: Students will listen, speak, read, write, view, and represent to explore thoughts, ideas, feelings, and experiences.
- 2.) General Outcome 2: Students will listen, speak, read, write, view, and represent to comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, literary, and media texts.
- 3.) General Outcome 3: Students will listen, speak, read, write, view, and represent to manage ideas and information.
- 4.) General Outcome 4: Students will listen, speak, read, write, view, and represent to enhance the clarity and artistry of communication.
- 5.) General Outcome 5: Students will listen, speak, read, write, view, and represent to celebrate and to build community.

Academic dishonesty is a severe offence and will be dealt with according to the policy outlined in the school handbook.

If you have an excused absence on the day of a test please make arrangements to write it the day you return. If you *skip* a test or quiz you will receive a zero.

EXPECTATIONS

1. Your behaviour in class must not prevent the teacher from giving the lesson OR interfere with anyone else's opportunity to learn.
2. Arrive to class on time and with all of your supplies. You are expected to immediately start reading or writing without having to be told.
3. Use class time wisely and complete all homework and assignments on time.
4. If you are absent, YOU are responsible for finding out what you missed and making up all missed work.
5. See Mrs. Sellman's class handbook for details of expectations.

Evaluation:

Assessment will be based on a variety of activities that cater to the various learning styles of students. Individual & group researches, oral presentations, textbook exercises, interactive notebooks, class discussion, and novel activities will be part of the evaluation of the course. Both peer & self-assessment will be used on a number of assignments throughout the year.

For major projects, you will be given a set of evaluation guidelines (rubrics) in order to help you put forth your best work. It is **your** responsibility to examine the guidelines & assignment criteria IN ADVANCE to ensure you have the opportunity to ask any-all questions. Remember, if you need clarification on an assignment, chances are, that a number of your peers have the same questions, so PLEASE ASK!

Academic Assessment:

All Tests and Major Projects will be weighted out of 100, and all assignments will be weighted based on their denominator (number of questions). All marks are cumulative throughout the year. Assessment will be ongoing & will include participation in daily classroom activities, random homework checks & quizzes, unit tests, and projects. Please refer to the evaluation format below. Students cannot rewrite tests.

Academic Achievement	
Comprehension	Reading
	Listening and viewing
Communication	Writing
	Speaking and representing
Critical thinking	

Late/Incomplete work Policy

Incomplete work and late assignments may be deducted in marks, as per McCreary School's late policy, developed in accordance with the Provincial Assessment Policy.

The guidelines for late assignments are as follows:

1. Teachers will set and communicate reasonable timelines for assignments
2. Teachers will share timelines and reminders with students through various formats (ex. course outline, email, post in classroom, etc.)

3. Teachers will assist students to meet timelines – monitor progress, check-ins
4. Students who struggle will require additional support from the teacher
5. Extensions will be granted at the teacher’s discretion, for valid and legitimate reasons only (ex. Illness)
6. Teachers will communicate with parents or set up parent/teacher/student conferences to discuss late / incomplete assignments
7. Teachers will make an arrangement with student to complete the work
8. Teachers will create alternative assignments for diverse learning needs

Where the above guidelines have been followed and assignments are not fully completed or handed in by the given due date, a deduction in marks will apply. **Upon teacher discretion a maximum of 5% may be deducted for every day the assignment is not turned in. If the assignment is not turned in after two weeks or at the start of a new unit, the assignment will receive a mark of zero.**

Behavioural Assessment

You will also be assessed based on your learning behaviours, which have been broken down into three categories: personal management skills, active participation in learning, and social responsibility. You will receive a letter grade on your report card for each of these three categories.

PERSONAL MANAGEMENT SKILLS
Organizes material
Uses class time productively
Works independently
Completes all work on time
Persists when faced with challenges
Seeks help when needed
Demonstrates a strong work ethic
Shows patience
Demonstrates on-task behaviour
Sets personal management goals

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN LEARNING
Shows interest; asks questions
Takes initiative
Self-assesses work quality based on criteria
Uses feedback to improve learning
Uses criteria to provide feedback
Uses a variety of media for communication
Investigates questions, hypothesizes, analyzes

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
Works and interacts well with others
Is welcoming and positive
Shares resources and equipment with others
Respects school values
Respects and follows classroom routines
Takes an equitable share of work in a group
Is courteous
Respects the need for safety
Sets personal management goals

EXTRA HELP

Extra help is available if and when you need it. I am usually available at lunch, and before or after school. Please let me know if you are planning on coming in, so that I know to be in the classroom.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Teacher: Mrs. Sellman

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School Phone: 835-2083