

Mayerthorpe Junior Senior High School

English Language Arts 8
Course Outline 2023/2024
Mrs. Katherine Lewis
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Overview:

The aim for English Language Arts is to have students experience, create, appreciate, and analyze a variety of texts. Students will enhance their reading, writing, viewing, representing, speaking, and listening skills. The ELA 7 Program of Studies aligns with these skills. My course will introduce students to a variety of texts, writing styles, and experiences to enhance their comprehension, writing, and creation skills.

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

Materials Required:

3 ring binder, loose leaf paper, pencils, pens, erasers, and highlighters.

Textbooks:

Resource Textbook- Sightlines 8

Novel Study- The Outsiders

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. **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, the teacher, as well as all property and equipment. Name-calling, teasing, inappropriate language, and/or damage to property will not be tolerated.
 - b. Use class time effectively and complete your work on 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!** 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. **Cell Phone Policy:** if the teacher sees a cellphone in class, whether in use or not, it will be taken to the office. If this is the students' first offense, they can retrieve their phone from the office at the end of the day. If it is their second offense, a parent or guardian must come and pick it up from the office. If it is the third offense, the phone is kept in the office safe for one month.

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.

Late Policy:

All assessments will be given a due date. This will be the date that an assessment must be handed in either on google classroom or in person.

- Late assessments will receive a grade of zero in PowerSchool.
- If a late assessment is handed in BEFORE it has been graded and returned to the rest of the class, I will mark it like normal and it will be returned with feedback as normal.
- If an assessment is handed in AFTER it has been graded and returned to the rest of the class, the zero in PowerSchool will be exempted, but it will not be graded and feedback will not be provided.
- If an assessment is not handed in at all, the grade of zero will remain in PowerSchool.

Cheating:

If a student is suspected of cheating/plagiarism, the assignment/assessment will be confiscated immediately. The assignment/assessment, along with any evidence seized by the teacher/supervisor, will be presented to the Principal with a report of the circumstances. The student will be given an opportunity to explain the circumstances relating to the incident in a meeting with the Principal.

If upon investigation, the student is found to be innocent, opportunity will be provided to write an equivalent assignment/assessment without penalty.

In cases where the Principal, after consultation with the student and the teacher/supervisor, feels that the evidence indicates guilt, or where there is an admission of guilt, parents/guardians will be notified of the incident and the consequences being applied.

Possible consequences that may be applied at the discretion of the Principal in whole or in part.

- A zero on the assignment/assessment
- Detention
- Completion of an additional assignment/assessment under supervision
- In-School Suspension
- Out-of-School Suspension
- Removal from extracurricular eligibility and/or participation

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 the student agenda for more detailed appeals information.

Bus Days:

Grades seven and eight students will be required to check their google classroom for assignments posted on bus days.

Units of Study:

- **Novel Study: The Outsiders:** 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 friendships, family struggles, and overcoming adversity.
- **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.
- **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. This unit will focus on 4 films set in a school setting. Students will discuss the inaccuracies of media portrayals of young students.

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.....	30%
Quizzes.....	15%
Unit Final Projects/Tests.....	25%
Midterm Exam.....	10%
Final Exam.....	20%