

**Grade 8 English Language Arts
Outline and Evaluation
2017 – 2018 School Year**

Mr. Davis/Mrs. Foley/Mrs. Roberts

Course Description:

English Language Arts is designed to develop students' knowledge and strategies in speaking and listening (speeches, role-play, debates), reading and viewing (novels, stories, blogs, texts, e-mails, plays and video), writing and representing (essays, letters, stories, dance, art work, collage or video production). English Language Arts must be taught in an integrated manner so that the interrelationships between and among the language processes will be understood and applied by the students. The integrated approach should be based on students' prior experience with language and on meaningful activities involving speaking, listening, reading, viewing, writing and other ways of representing meaning. Experiences with literature are, in addition to developing their knowledge and strategies, designed to enhance students' awareness of the richness of life, expand their imagination, exercise their intellects, and mature their emotions.

The curriculum provides for a balance of transactional, expressive and poetic writing. The conventions of language are taught in the contexts of students' own writing and speaking. The variety of resources for reading and viewing are intended to evoke personal responses, promote discussion and analysis of values and ideas, and consolidate their understanding of language, form and genre. A variety of interaction patterns (partnership, small groups and whole class) should be used.

The curriculum guide is available to view at:

http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/curriculum/guides/english/grade7_9/ELA8_curr_guide_2016.pdf

Department Approved Resources:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Language Arts Survival Guide➤ Nelson Literacy 8➤ Homegrown 8➤ Various teacher handouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Teacher-supported novel #1 – <i>The Outsiders</i> (by S.E. Hinton)➤ Teacher-supported novel #2 – (Among the Imposters)➤ Other novels for independent or group reading (Approximately 3-5)
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Evaluation Scheme:

A. Speaking	14%	B. Listening	14%
C. Reading	19%	D. Viewing	18%
E. Writing	13%	F. Representing	12%
G. Final	20%		

Notes:

1. **The above marking scheme may be altered under extenuating circumstances (long term illness, bereavement, etc.) or if a student shows significant improvement through course examinations.**
2. **Students will be given at least five school days notice before any test or major project is due.**

Suggested Class Materials:

1. *Dictionary/Thesaurus*
2. *2-inch Ring Binder*
3. *Loose Leaf and Duotang Folder*
4. *Coloring Leads/Markers*
5. *Scissors*
6. *Glue*
7. *Pencils/Erasers*
8. *Pens*

Suggested Course Content:

CATEGORY	ACTIVITY	NUMBER(S) SUGGESTED
Writing & Representing	(A) Multi-paragraph writing	3
	(B) Poetry	3
	(C) Visual/informational text	1
	(D) Multimedia	1
	(E) Creative expression	1
	(F) Demand writing (choose from A to E)	6
Reading & Viewing	(G) Poetry	15
	(H) Drama	2
	(I) Short prose	9 fiction + 9 non-fiction
	(J) Multimedia	5
	(K) Student-selected longer prose (novel)	5
	(L) Teacher-supported longer prose	3
Speaking & Listening	(M) Informal Speaking (Group discussion, improvisation, role play, or read aloud)	6
	(N) Formal Speaking (Interview, debate, speech, slideshow, book talk, dramatic presentation)	2
	(O) Formal Listening (music, read aloud, speech, debate)	2

Outline 2017-2018

Unit One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Biography Poems/Introductory Activities</i> ➤ <i>Literacy Essay/Collage</i> (Students will respond to the questions “How do I know What I Know? What does it mean to be literate?”) ➤ With teacher/peer guidance/discussion students will reflect on how they’ve become “literate.” 	<p style="text-align: center;">September (approx. 2 weeks)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Literacy Assignment September</p>
Unit Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Nelson Literacy 8 “Global Citizens”</i> ➤ Students will examine a variety of texts sharing a common theme. ➤ Selection from <i>Nelson “Homegrown”</i> ➤ Significant emphasis will be placed on poetry: terms, writing, reading, music lyrics ➤ Students will read a sample of their poetry ➤ Poetry Common Assessment ➤ Independent Reading Assignment # 1 	<p style="text-align: center;">September – October (approx. 3 weeks)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Poetry Assessment Oct. 4th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Independent Reading Assignment Oct. 27th</p>
Unit Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Nelson Literacy 8 “Secrets”</i> ➤ Students will examine a variety of texts sharing a common theme. ➤ Selection from <i>Nelson “Homegrown”</i> ➤ Significant emphasis will be placed on the short story: narrative structure, character development, etc. ➤ Literature Circle #1 (Short Story) ➤ Students will write a <i>spooky</i> short story and read a section to the class. ➤ Short Story Common Assessment 	<p style="text-align: center;">October (approx. 3 weeks)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mystery Story Oct. 30th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Short Story Assessment: Nov. 8th</p>
Unit Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>The Outsiders</i>, by S.E. Hinton ➤ <i>Novel will be read and analyzed in class using a variety of individual, small group and whole class activities.</i> ➤ <i>End of unit project offering a number of choices for students.</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;">November-December (approx. 4 weeks)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Outsiders Project Nov.30th</p>
Unit Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Drama/Dance</i> ➤ Students will learn several social dances and then choose ONE(1) for presentation (jive, foxtrot, rumba or cha cha) ➤ Students will develop a short Christmas Skit (through improvisation) for the class. Students will perform skit for class. 	<p style="text-align: center;">December (approx. 3 weeks)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Skit Performances Dec 14-15th</p>

Unit Five	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Nelson Literacy 8 “Chasing a Dream”</i> ➤ Students will examine a variety of texts sharing a common theme. ➤ Demand Writing Assessment ➤ Selection from <i>Nelson “Homegrown”</i> ➤ Significant emphasis will be placed on the info. Text and various features of text. ➤ Literature Circle #2 (Info. Texts) ➤ Students will create their own info text/magazine (topics to be determined) ➤ Informational Common Assessment 	<p style="text-align: center;">January (approx. 3 weeks)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Demand Writing Jan 15th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Info Text/Magazine: Jan. 19th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Informational Assessment Jan. 29th</p>
Unit Six	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Nelson Literacy 8 “No Limits”</i> ➤ Students will examine a variety of texts sharing a common theme. ➤ Film Study- Students will view a selection of films and analyze various techniques ➤ Independent Reading Assignment #2 	<p style="text-align: center;">February (approx. 2 weeks)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Film Analysis Feb. 14th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Independent Reading Assignment 2 Feb 12th</p>
Unit Six	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Teacher Led Novel Study “Among the Imposters”</i> ➤ Novel will be read and analyzed in class using a variety of individual, small group and whole class activities. ➤ End of unit project offering a number of choices for students. 	<p style="text-align: center;">February-March (approx. 4 weeks)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Novel Study Project Mar. 5th</p>
Unit Seven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Nelson Literacy 8 “Tech Then and Now”</i> ➤ Students will examine a variety of texts sharing a common theme. ➤ Selection from <i>Nelson “Homegrown”</i> ➤ School Speeches 	<p style="text-align: center;">March – April (approx. 3 weeks)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speech Mar. 23th</p>
Unit Eight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Nelson Literacy “Reality Check”</i> ➤ Students will examine a variety of texts sharing a common theme. ➤ Interview ➤ Selection from <i>Nelson “Homegrown”</i> ➤ An In-depth Study of The Essay/Logical Fallacies ➤ Students will write an essay given a list of possible topics. 	<p style="text-align: center;">April (Approx. 3 weeks)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Interview April 12th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Essay April 24thth</p>

Unit Nine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Film/Multimedia Project</i> ➤ Students will write one scene of a student screenplay. ➤ Only those students with parent permission will be permitted to act in the film. Parts of the film will be shot outside of regular class time. ➤ Independent Reading Assignment #3 	<p style="text-align: center;">April-May (Approx. 2 Weeks)</p> <p>Scene Writing: May 22nd</p> <p>Independent Reading Assignment May 15th</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Final Exam Review – Students will write their exam at the specified times – there will be THREE(3) sections: Poetry, Info. Text and Demand Writing.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">June</p> <p>Final Exam: Date to be determined</p>

**The dates in this outline are tentative only, and may change slightly depending on individual teachers as well as extenuating circumstances (i.e. Storm closures, etc.)*