

MATTHEW HALTON SCHOOL

Language Arts 8

Course Outline

Mr. S Oliver

Contact: olivers@lrsd.ab.ca or 403-627-4414

Objectives

The aim of the English Language Arts program is to enable each student to understand and appreciate language, and to use it confidently, competently and artistically in a variety of situations for communication, personal satisfactions and learning. There are 5 general Outcomes that students will be looking at this year.

General Outcomes

1. Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to explore thoughts, ideas, feelings and experiences.
2. Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, print and other media texts.
3. Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to manage ideas and information.
4. Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to enhance the clarity and artistry of communication.
5. Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to respect, support, and collaborate with others.

Tentative Timeline

(This timeline may change depending on the needs of students)

Cinematography and Film Study	September and October
Poetry	October and November
Short Stories	December
Novel Study	January and February
Persuasive Writing	March and April
Creative Writing	May and June
Plays and Theatre	June

Students will also complete three "book report" presentations throughout the year. More details will be provided in class.

At the end of the year the student will be able to:

- Read and view a wide variety of material in different genres.
- Tell / Write or represent responses that show an understanding of what they have read.
- Write or represent on a range of topics in different forms for a variety of audiences.
- Shows an understanding of the values and conventions of writing (spelling, punctuation, grammar, sentence structure).
- Works successfully on their own and in groups.

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Required Materials - Every Class

- **Writing Utensil** - Pen and pencil
- **Textbook** - Novels and Anthologies signed out through the Library
- **Notebook** - Binder and notebook paper
- **Extras** - Specific material may be required to complete classroom projects. Students will be reminded to bring these items (ruler, scissors, glue...).

Assessment Belief

The purpose of assessment is to improve student learning. As a teacher I assess student learning to check on mastery and understanding. Assessment influences and changes my instruction and design of curriculum. All assessments contribute to the summative evaluation at the end of the marking period, documenting how well the students have "Met the Standards" in given areas of the class.

My goal is for all students to be able to demonstrate the skills and content knowledge of this course to a level that is within range for what is appropriate for their grade level. By mastery, this means that a student can do the skill or demonstrate understanding of content independently and consistently.

Evaluation

Formative Assessment will happen on a daily basis throughout the course.

Summative Assessment:

Cinematography and Film Study	10%
Poetry	10%
Short Stories	10%
Novel Study	10%
Persuasive Writing	10%
Creative Writing	10%
Plays and Theatre	10%
Literacy	10%
Book Report Presentations	5%
Final Exam	15%

Expectations

1. If a student is absent for any reason it will be their responsibility to find out what has been missed and how to catch up. Check Google class.
2. Arrangements must be made prior to the absence of a major quiz, exam or project.
3. Students will be required to record all homework in their agendas. Parents, please check this regularly.

Classroom Rules

1. Use only school accepted and respectful language during any type of communication.
2. Come prepared to learn.
3. Junk food is not permitted during class.

4. You may ask to use the washroom and/or get a drink, but remember it is a privilege not a right, so don't abuse it.

5. Respect other's personal space, property and rights.

6. Cell phones can be used as a convenient way to aid learning (checking spelling, looking up unfamiliar words, etc.). If they become a distraction, however, they will not be permitted.