Language Arts 9 – Course Outline

2014-2015

Mrs. K.Wouters

# Rm. 212

County Central High School

## General Objectives for Language Arts

The Language Arts program should provide opportunities for students to develop their understanding and apply their knowledge in the following dimensions for language.

 Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to

* explore thoughts, ideas, feelings and experiences
* comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, print and other media texts
* manage ideas and information
* enhance the clarity and artistry of communication
* respect, support and collaborate with others

### Course Content

The following are the units that will be covered throughout the duration of this course:

(1) Introduction to Gr. 9 Language Arts September

 Students will enter into Grade 9 Language Arts with an introduction to daily reading and daily writing (including quickwrites). Students will have an opportunity to show where they are at in both of those areas.

(2) Book Club: Future Worlds October-November

 Students will examine the inquiry question: How are the issues of today explored in science fiction? We will be focusing on improving all reading strategies in a book club format and our main writing focus for this unit will be writing a science fiction short story.

(3)Titanic Unit December-January

 Throughout this unit students will be examing a variety of forms of media based on the historical Titanic tragedy. We will be focusing on the concepts of perspective and bias using the reading strategies of predicting, evaluating, and inferring. Our main writing focus for this unit will be a research essay.

(4) Digital Book Club:Stand Up for Human Rights (6 weeks) February-March

 During this unit, students will be exploring digital reading materials in a book club format as they investigate the inquiry question: Why do human rights matter? The writing focus for this unit will be research based assignments.

(5) Mysterious Shivers April-May

 As students venture into this unit, they will come face to face with the power of words in creating suspenseful and frightful literature. Students will have an opportunity to create their own “on the edge of their seats” short stories.

(6) Review May-June

 We will be reviewing the skills, concepts, strategies, etc. that we’ve learned throughout the year as well as work on further developing the skills of writing multiple choice reading tests.

Throughout the year, we will be focusing on increasing our writing and reading skills through quickwrites and daily reading.

As part of this course, students will be expected to complete “**At Home” reading and writing.** It is recommended that students aim for **two hours of home reading per week and forty minutes of home writing per week**. As discussed in class, home reading can look different for each student. Novels, non-fiction books, magazines, newspapers, user guides, recipes, etc are all considered reading which will build skills. Home writing will be largely guided by the student (which at first may be a challenge). At times I may assign home writing to help guide students in this process. Remember that the more they read and write, the better readers and writers they will be.

### Course Evaluation

Students will be evaluated based on an ‘assessment for learning’ format. Instead of weighting each assignment for marks, marks will be differentiated between FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS which are for developing the learning and practice of the concepts and SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS which are an evaluation of those skills/knowledge. The marks for the formative assessments will not affect student grades but are expected to be adequately completed in order to develop the skills to eventually be able to complete the summative assessments. This allows marks to provide a truer representation of how students are achieving. Both types of assessments may be reported on student progress reports.

The final exam will count for approximately 20% of the final mark. There will be a two-part achievement test for this course that will act as the final exam. **Part A of the Provincial Achievement Test** will be the writing portion and will be written the morning of **May 11th**. **Part B** will be a reading/multiple choice test and will be written the morning of **June 25th**.

The student’s grade will be calculated by combining the average of the summative tasks. The mark is cumulative throughout the year, but because the learning in the first reporting period will continue to be developed in the remaining terms, what may have been considered to be a summative assessment in the first term may end up being formative when a new assessment is given.

Due to the nature of the course, **class participation** is very important. Participation includes such things as attitude, work ethic in class, completion of homework, being courteous to others, bringing all books and materials to class, being a positive addition to group work, and general participation in class activities. Although these qualities are not part of a student’s mark, feedback on these may be reported to parents on the quarterly progress reports.

**Required materials:**

Please always bring the following materials with you to every Language Arts 9B class:

* a pen and tape white out
* a pencil and an eraser
* a free-reading book
* the texts and/or materials being used in class at that time
* any homework that needs to be handed in.

Students should also have a set of pencil crayons, glue, scissors and a ruler for various projects.

You may not be allowed to return to your locker during class time, so it is important that you bring everything that you are going to need with you when you come to class.

**Texts & Resources**:

The following are the main texts and resources that will be used throughout this course:

 SightLines 9 – Prentice Hall Ginn Canada

 ResourceLines 9/10 – Prentice Hall Ginn Canada

 Stepping Up With Literacy Place - Scholastic Canada Ltd.

 In addition, numerous other print, video, audio and other media resources will be used throughout the course.

**Behaviour Expectations:**

Expectations of all students in this class are that they will:

* complete all assignments
* follow the directions of all staff
* demonstrate consideration, courtesy and respect for others and property
* use appropriate language
* remain “on task” and not disturb others

**Communication with Home**:

Parents and students are reminded about the school website : <http://www.countycentral.ca> . Homework and other important items pertinent to this class will be posted here regularly. As well, parents are encouraged to regularly view their child’s growth and work in this class and provide descriptive feedback to support and increase their learning. Should they have any questions or concerns about their child’s work or learning, parents are welcome to contact me at any time. My e-mail is kim.wouters@pallisersd.ab.ca and the school phone number is 403-485-2223.

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By signing this, I hereby acknowledge that I have carefully read the 2014-15 course outline for Language Arts 9.

Parent/Guardian signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_