

Grade 9 English Language Arts ELA10F

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Course Overview

Expressing ideas is at the heart of English Language Arts. In this course, students will explore and acquire proficiency in a wide range of communication modes and media. A balance of the six language arts will be present in this course: *reading and writing, listening and speaking, and viewing and representing*. Students will work individually, in pairs, small groups, and whole-class groups to develop cooperative and collaborative skills, using draft and critique to work toward success, keeping in mind that learning is not a competition but a pursuit of challenges that result in worthwhile achievement.

Topics and Texts

(Subject to changes in texts and order)

- Writing Journals
- Grammar, Vocabulary, Spelling
- *The Odyssey* by Homer
 - The Epic Hero
- Presentations and Speeches
- Short Stories (e.g. *The Lottery*, *The Most Dangerous Game*)
- Poetry
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
 - Great Depression Literature
 - Writing regarding Injustice
- Formal Essay Writing
- Informal Writing

Course Structure

The school year consists of two reporting periods (September to January and January to June) worth 80% of the year, and a Final Examination worth 20% of the year.

Assessment Categories

Your assignments for the year will be marked according to the categories below, with a specific weighting for each one to be represented in your final grade. These categories embody skills pertaining to the six different English language arts: speaking and listening, reading and writing, and viewing and representing. Each assessment piece will fall into one or more of these categories, and will measure the student's ability as it pertains to each mode of literacy.

- **Comprehend and Respond** to various texts, in terms of content and criticism. **(40%)**
- **Compose and Create** various works of creative and expository writing, presentations, and other forms of language arts. **(40%)**
- **Engage, Assess, and Reflect** with regards to course content, work ethic, group work, self- and peer-assessment, as well as overall awareness of self and society. **(20%)**

Course Policies

1. Respect

The most important rule in this course is that both the instructor and the students must be respectful – to each other, to themselves, and to their surroundings (this includes textbooks, personal belongings, etc.). If everybody abides by this rule, everything will be great! If the necessary level of respect breaks down, however, the course will not work as it should. So, that being said, there will be little tolerance regarding disrespectful behaviour, and necessary actions will be taken to help fix any problems in this area.

2. Academic Behaviour

- a. I am committed to help you succeed in this course and to take you seriously. If you have any questions or concerns regarding course material, assignments or marks, please feel free to come and discuss them with me.
- b. The onus is on you to engage with the material presented in this course. This includes engaging in class discussions, classroom activities, etc.
- c. You are expected to arrive to class on time, seated before the final bell rings.
- d. If you are unable to meet a deadline, please speak to me before the due date to make alternate arrangements. Flexibility in this regard will vary, as some deadlines must be met, while others will allow for some leniency.
- e. Extensions are reserved for exceptional circumstances – sports, music, assignments from other courses, or simply being too busy does not qualify as an exceptional circumstance.
- f. Late assignments are subject to a 5% deduction per day. All projects and assignments must be completed during the term that they are assigned in order to qualify for a mark for that term. (Please note that weekends constitute the equivalent of one day late.)
- g. Plagiarism is the use of the words, thoughts, and ideas of another person without proper acknowledgement, and includes handing in work that has been previously submitted in another course. Plagiarism will result in the student being given a zero for the assignment, as well as any administrative consequences that are deemed necessary and appropriate.

3. Food/Drink

You can have a bottle of water or a cup of tea or coffee in my classroom. That's it. No snacks, meals, or any kind of food is welcome in the room. It distracts the others and attracts the mice. If you show up late for my class with Starbucks or Tim's (or Cafeteria breakfast) you will be asked to leave until you finish it. If you have intramurals or co-curriculars during lunch, it's your responsibility to make sure you find time to eat. My room is not the Caf. The Caf is the Caf. That's why it's called the Caf.

4. Textbooks

Some texts, such as the *Adventures in Literature* books, will be used in class and are to remain in-class only.

Other texts will be studied in more depth and each student will be assigned a text for personal use. It must have your name written in it, and I will keep a record of your name, book number, and what condition the book is in. If we are using one of these books in class and you don't have it, please get it from your locker – there may not be extras. When you return your text at the end of the unit, I will not check off your name unless you actually present to me, in-person, the correct book with your name written inside. Do not just drop it off. If I do not know you are returning the correct book I cannot check off your name.

5. Leaving the Room

Leaving the classroom is discouraged as much as is possible – please find time to get a drink of water or use the restroom in-between periods. If you need to use the restroom, write your name and the time you are leaving the room on the whiteboard in the designated space. This is so if there is a fire drill or lockdown I know where everyone is. Only two at a time, and anything more than five minutes tells me you went to the cafeteria or your locker.

6. Technology

Laptops and iPad/tablet devices may be permitted in class for taking notes, entering due dates into your calendar, online research, or composing assignments during designated work time. This is a privilege and not a right, so abuse of this by accessing social media, gaming, or surfing the web will result in a loss of this privilege for you or potentially the class.

As per MBCI policy, phones are not allowed in class. I have a bin at the front of the room where you will put your phone at the beginning of each class and collect it at the end. If you don't want to put your phone in the bin, leave it in your locker where it is supposed to be during your classes. If I see you with your phone during class I will take it and smash it. Just kidding. But it will go into my desk for the rest of the class, and to the office if it happens again. Your Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter can survive for 75 minutes without you.

Webpage, Edsby, and Email

My teacher website on Edsby will be your primary source of information about the course. On it you will find what we will cover each week, assignment information, links to resources, and a quick link to my teacher email. If you miss a day or just forget something I said, this should be your first stop.

My email address is the best way you or your parent(s)/guardian(s) can contact me outside of class time. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours, even on weekends, but don't expect a quick response over holidays.

Office Hours

I will be in the school building from 8:00-3:30. I am available in my classroom during my prep time. I have a schedule posted at the front of the room. You may not visit my room while other classes are going on, and you may not visit while you have a class going on.