

## Mrs. Murdoch's English Language Arts 7 Course Outline

You can contact me anytime Mrs. Murdoch (403) 843-3761 ext. 4337

[shauna.murdoch@wolfcreek.ab.ca](mailto:shauna.murdoch@wolfcreek.ab.ca)

### **Course intent:**

"The English Language Arts curriculum engages students in a range of experiences and interactions with a variety of texts designed to help them develop increasing control over language processes, use and respond to language effectively and purposefully, and understand why language and literacy are so central to their lives." (from Alberta English Language Arts Curriculum: Grades 7-9)

There are **five general outcomes** in the Language Arts Program. Students will **read, write, listen, speak, view, and represent** in order to:

1. Explore ideas, feelings, and experiences
2. Comprehend and respond personally and critically to a variety of texts
3. Organize ideas and information
4. Enhance the clarity and artistry of communication
5. Respect, support, and work with others

Over the course of the year students will examine multiple units of study through Reading and Writing workshops.

### **Independent Reading**

Reading across the curriculum is also an important component of instruction. Research shows that the more students read, the better they become academically. Students are expected to read novels at or above their reading level, but on a topic that they are interested in. They can read graphic novels, fiction or non-fictional novels.

Additionally, students are required to create a book project/quickwrite of individual book they have read. Once a student has completed a novel (at or above their reading level) they are to tell the teacher where they will then be expected to write a paragraph (quickwrite) answering a specific question about their book. This will show that they have read the book and show their knowledge that they have gained from the novel. Students have an LAX (library) period once a rotation where they will have 40 mins to sit quietly and read. They also can read when they have completed the assigned work in class. The goal is for students to complete 7 quickwrites throughout the year.

"The more you **read**  
the more **things** you know.  
The more that you **learn**  
the more **places** you'll go."  
-Dr. Seuss

### **Unit 1 -Parts of Speech (Grammar)**

Understanding and applying of nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, abstract nouns, concrete nouns, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections

Sentence types- simple, compound, complex and compound-complex

Sentence format - declarative, interrogative, imperative and exclamatory

### **Unit 2- Horror and Mystery**

In this unit we will study the format of short stories, character development, and author's purpose.

We will also look at figurative language (poetry), paragraph writing (narrative and descriptive) as well as story writing.

### **Unit 3- Disasters**

This unit we will look at how disasters (man-made and natural) occur. We will read news articles, short stories and poetry. In this unit students will create a research project so research skills and reporting will be a focus. We will also look at news and news reporting, advertisements, fact vs bias, and students will create an editorial (persuasive) piece.

### **Unit 4- Turning Points**

In this unit we will look at how people and characters respond when their life is altered forever, either positively or negatively. We will read some short stories and news articles. The writing component for this unit will be letter writing and a short essay. This unit will also include our novel study- "Cowboys don't cry" which will include chapter questions and activities, novel terms, projects and written responses. The novel will also have a major summative project at the end. This unit will also tie into our Visual and Film Study unit. Students will learn terminology for visual analysis as well as film analysis, following with written assignment(s) and a film study analysis as a class.

## **Some examples of what we may be doing over the course of the year:**

### **Reading**

Non-fiction (articles, essays, reports, documentaries)  
Short Stories  
Poetry  
Reading Strategies (pre-reading, during reading, and after reading, context clues)  
Novel study and independent reading  
Comprehension Quizzes

### **Writing**

The Writing Process- generating ideas, drafting, revising & editing, final drafting and publishing  
Descriptive, narrative, and expository writing  
Paragraph writing  
Grammar- Parts of Speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc...)  
- Sentences (complete, simple, compound, complex)  
- Grammar Quizzes  
- Figurative Language  
- Creative Writing

### **Speaking/Listening/Viewing/Representing**

Oral Reading  
Sharing writing  
Graphic Organizers  
Posters and diagrams  
Oral questioning  
Small group and class discussion participation  
A variety of media – documentaries, news reports, videos, movies, plays  
Film Study

### **Formative Assessment**

Formative assessment is ongoing assessment that happens during the learning process to provide the student with feedback. This is considered to be practice. Although it is important and may be recorded, it is not used to determine final achievement. Examples of this form of assessment could include:

- Planning
- templates
- Exit slips
- Reading fluency and comprehension



## Summative Assessment

Summative assessment is assessment used to determine what the student understands after the learning process has occurred and will be used to determine achievement.

- Projects
- Quizzes
- Tests
- Presentations

## Assessment

Reading Comprehension 20%

- Multiple choice reading comprehension
- Short story and novel reading comprehension
- Article(s) reading comprehension

Creative Writing/Creative Response 25%

- Descriptive paragraph
- Short story creation
- Poetry creation
- Quickwrites
- Bell ringer video responses

Vocabulary 10%

- Poetry terms
- Novel terms
- Short story terms
- Newspaper/ Advertising terms
- Visual/ Film study terms

Visual and Film Analysis 5%

- Paragraph response(s) to Visual
- Film Study Analysis (questions and responses)

Writing and Grammar Skills 20%

- Grammar Terms
- Parts of Sentences
- Sentence Types
- Paragraph Formats
- **Any writing that includes students using proper grammar/sentence format that grade will be separated into this category**

Final Exam 20%

- Vocabulary
- Reading comprehension
- Paragraph/ written response

