



## I. Key Message/Expectations

Language is also a “defining feature of culture and an unmistakable mark of personal identity”. In your Grade 8 year, you will have opportunities to improve your reading comprehension and writing so that you become a more effective reader and communicator. You will also develop a better understanding of yourself both as a learner and as a unique individual by exploring the 6 Language Arts - Listening and Speaking, Reading, Writing, Representing and Viewing.

## II. Course Overview

During Language Arts 8, you will learn to meet the following 5 major course outcomes which are based on the Program of Studies for Grade 8:

1. **Express thoughts, ideas, feelings, and experiences** on a variety of texts and themes and on your learning strengths and goals. Listen to and seek out the ideas and experiences of others to develop and increase understandings.
2. **Understand and respond personally and critically to oral, print and media texts.** Identify how text features and author techniques communicate meaning. Use prior and new knowledge to respond to and understand texts. Build understandings of how language and writing are used for different purposes and audiences.
3. **Manage ideas and information.** Determine information needs and evaluate the appropriateness of sources. Take notes and use graphic organizers and outlines to create a variety of written texts and projects. Share and review my information with others.
4. **Enhance the clarity and artistry of your ability to communicate to an audience.** Develop a stronger vocabulary, learn, and practice correct spelling, grammar, verb tense, punctuation, and capitalization. Proofread, revise, and edit your work to ensure you clearly communicate all your ideas. Experiment with voice and artistry, using figurative language and other points of view where appropriate. Demonstrate attentive, active listening and viewing.
5. **Respect, support and collaborate with other students** to discover and appreciate the point of view of others. Cooperate with others, work in groups, and evaluate your effectiveness. Use language to show respect and celebrate both your own and your classmates’ achievements in Language Arts 8.

### **III. Scope and Sequence** *This is a guideline and subject to change.*

#### **Introductory Unit**

**September - October**

- review of grammar, spelling, capitalization
- vocabulary development
- determining main ideas
- 4 types writing, sentence types and improving sentence structure through an introduction to sentence openers
- basic paragraph structure including outlines and graphic organizers
- personal paragraph and review of the writing process: proofreading, editing & revising a final draft
- review of genre
- introductory project -personal identity collage with informative paragraph
- divisional writing and reading comprehension assessments

#### **Non-Fiction Unit**

**November**

- review of informative/expository text features
- personal and critical short answer responses
- an introduction to the RACE strategy for short-answer questions
- how-to video project and expository paragraph
- persuasive paragraph
- persuasive business letter (time permitting)

#### **Poetry & Descriptive Writing Unit**

**December - January**

- review of descriptive text features
- figurative language and imagery
- personal and critical short answer responses
- figurative Language Project
- 5 senses lyric poem
- setting & mood descriptive paragraph

#### **Short Story Unit**

**January - February**

- review of narrative text features
- short story elements: plot, conflict, theme, setting and mood
- characters and character traits, choices & motivations
- personal and critical short answer responses
- narrative paragraph
- character sketch paragraph
- viewing assignment

## Novel Study - *The Outsiders*

March - April

- character traits - quote poster project
- journals in character (writing from different points of view)
- personal and critical short answer responses
- novel project

## Suspense & Review Unit

May - June

- short stories and drama/play studies focusing on text features
- review of plot, suspense, foreshadowing and other plot elements as well as figurative language review
- final exam preparation - review of test-taking reading comprehension and writing skills

## IV. Teaching Methodology

Expect to explore, learn and create in a variety of ways based on a variety of learning styles and through differentiation since everyone learns differently. This includes but is not limited to direct teaching, learning independently, cooperatively in pairs and small groups, class discussions, in a sequence of small steps (scaffolding); personal and critical responses to texts and researching and creating hands-on projects.

## V. Assessment

A variety of assessment practices will be utilized with an emphasis on descriptive feedback. Assessment will be based on the student's achievement of the outcomes in the Program of Studies for LA 8.

Formative Assessments are essential to student success on Summative (weighted assignments that count towards a students' course average).

**Formative Assessments** are used for daily student practice and feedback as well as inform the teaching process. They include zero weighted daily activities, guidance on the stages in the writing process, small assignments and quizzes and class discussions. These may be considered as part of summative assessments and may have mark and/or written feedback.

**Summative Assessments** include minor assignments, that demonstrate students' knowledge of the current unit of study, Major assessments including writing assignments, unit exams and projects.

**Mark updates** are available to parents/guardians & students on the GPS website: go to [www.grimshawpublic.ca](http://www.grimshawpublic.ca), click on students or parents, and then on PowerSchool. Marks will be updated regularly, and students can expect formative and summative comments on their work and, at times, in the comments section of select assignments.

**LA 8: Course work:**

Assignments/Quizzes.....	20 %
Major Writing/Projects.....	30 %
Unit Exams.....	25 %
Final Exam .....	25 %

Multiple Choice Reading Comprehension and Paragraph Writing

**VI. Resources**

Primary Resources as per Alberta Education's Authorized Resources list

Textbook: *Sightlines 9* Novel Study & Film: *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

**IT'S OKAY TO STRUGGLE**  
- GREAT THINGS COME FROM STRUGGLES –  
***BUT***  
IT'S *NOT* OKAY TO GIVE UP ON YOURSELF  
and STOP YOURSELF FROM LEARNING.



**YOU WERE BORN TO LEARN.**

-Miss St. André