**Boissevain School**

**Course Outline**

***Course Information***

**Course:** English Language Arts 10F

**Teacher:** Miss. Fingas

**Date:** 2014-2015

***Contact Information***

**Email**: tfingas@tmsd.mb.ca

**Course Website:** www.missfingas.weebly.com

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**English Language Arts 10F**

Welcome to Grade 9 English Language Arts. This course focuses on building and improving your skills in the main language arts. English Language Arts is a subject driven by many different concepts. We will spend time ***reading***and ***listenin****g* to short stories, poetry, speeches, novels, and most importantly each other. We will work to improve your own ***writing***and ***speaking*** skills in a wide variety of ways. Additionally, we will also explore how ideas can be ***represented*** and ***viewed*** in creative and exciting approaches.

***Course Outcomes***

There are five mandated general outcomes of the Grade 9 English Language Arts curriculum that will be focused upon:

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

**» Explore thoughts, ideas, feelings, and experiences of yourself and others**

* Access prior knowledge
* Make predications and connections
* Set goals to assist your own learning
* Reflect on attainment of language learning goals

**» Comprehend and respond personally and critically to a variety of texts**

* + Be aware of, and use comprehension strategies to understand a variety of texts
  + Identify various elements, techniques, and key characteristics of oral, literary, and media texts
  + Experience and respond to a variety of oral, literary, and media texts
  + Make connections between self and texts

**» Manage ideas and information while conducting research**

* Create and follow a plan of inquiry based on a guiding question
* Evaluate potential sources for bias
* Distinguish between fact and a theory
* Record and organize information using a variety of tools

**» Create original texts (composing, revising, and presenting)**

* Create texts using a variety of forms for particular audiences and purposes
* Know and apply grammar, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and sentence structure conventions
* Purposefully revise rough drafts
* Experiment with appropriate variety of sentence patterns, visuals, and figurative language to create the desired effect

**» Cooperate and collaborate with others respectfully**

* Demonstrate critical listening and viewing skills and strategies
* Show respect for presenters
* Demonstrate the ability to work effectively and responsibly with others in a group

***Course Content***

This is a general list of potential topics:

The course will be divided into three general areas:

1. **Writing Workshop**
2. **Reading / Listening / Viewing Workshop**
3. **Inquiry / Research**

Plus there will be a strong focus on **goal setting** and the **final portfolio**.

**Writing Workshop**

* Lessons: what is good writing? / showing not telling, working with writing variables
* Pragmatic Writing: autobiographical writing, news articles, instructions, advertisements, games, speeches, etc.
* Aesthetic Writing: comic books, poetry from a pattern, narrative, collage, poster

**Reading / Listening / Viewing Workshop**

* Wide variety of texts will be used to address skills and strategies
* Some texts will be teacher chosen while some will be student chosen
* A thematic approach will be used

**Inquiry / Research**

* Research based on guiding questions

Each unit will be comprised of a variety of different activities designed to have students engaged in the mandated general outcomes of the Grade 9 English Language Arts curriculum.

***Assessment (Evaluation)***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Exploring Thoughts, Ideas, and Feelings** | **5%** |
| **Responding to Texts** (Print / Oral / Media) | **30%** |
| **Creating Original Texts (**Print / Oral / Media) | **30%** |
| **Inquiry / Research** (Managing and organizing ideas and information) | **10%** |
| **Mid-term Assessment** | **5%** |
| **Final Assessment** (Portfolio) | **20%** |

Assessment will be ongoing throughout English Language Arts. Assessment will take on many different shapes and forms. Students will be assessed through different means such as assignments, discussions, projects, and a final portfolio. Rubrics will be provided to make students clear of the expectations when assignments or projects are to be graded. The ability of a student to work collaboratively and respectfully within the classroom will also be a focus.

Students will play a part in the assessment process during English Language Arts through self-assessment. Self-assessment will require the learner to reflect on and take responsibility for her/his own learning. Students will partake in personal goal setting and will be provided with opportunities for student self-assessment throughout the year. It ensures that students know the next steps on their journey to meet curricular outcomes.

***Final Assessment***

All students will be required to develop a literacy portfolio. It will be used as a final assessment tool and will be worth 20% of the student’s final Grade 9 English mark. Students will be required to have a 1-inch binder for the portfolio and will need clear page protectors.

***Supplies Required***

Students need to bring the following items to class at all times:

* 2 or 3 Inch Binder with Paper & Dividers
* 1 Inch Binder with Page Protectors (for literacy portfolio)
* Pens or Pencils

***Assignments, Projects, and Homework:***

It is the expectation that assignments, projects, and homework will be completed and/or handed in on the assigned due date. Check the homework board for upcoming important dates regarding assignments, projects, and homework. If you cannot meet the deadline please see me before the assignment, project, or homework is due and we will discuss a possible extension.

All assignments and projects must be completed before the beginning of the final exam period.

Assignments and projects are to be handed into the Grade 9 English Language Arts bin located on the front table. Assignments and projects will be marked and handed back in a timely fashion.

***Absences***

If you miss a class for any reason, you need to make sure you find out what you have missed and to catch up in a timely fashion.

How to find out what you missed:

-Check the extra handout box

-Check the homework board

-Ask a friend or classmate

-Check the class website: www.missfingas.weebly.com

-Consult Miss. Fingas

If you know you will be away for an extended period of time, let me know so I can gather some work for you. A few days notice is appreciated.

***Academic Dishonesty***

It is the expectation that students will demonstrate integrity, ethical conduct, and academic honestly throughout the course. Academic honesty will be a topic that will be covered in English Language Arts to help prepare students for the world of English. Academic dishonesty (example: cheating or plagiarism) will not be accepted and will be dealt with accordingly.

***Extra Help***

All students are encouraged to seek help in class and outside of class. Please speak to me before class, afterwards or via email: tfingas@tmsd.mb.ca to set up time for help if required.

***Cell Phones/IPods/Electronic Devices:***

Cell phones/IPods/Electronic Devices are prohibited during class time. Cell phones and iPods must be placed in the bucket on the front table. If we leave the classroom to work elsewhere, the bucket will be locked in the classroom so your device will be secure.

***Class Website***

A class website has been set up for students of Grade 9 English Language Arts. The goal of the class website is to provide students with another means to stay connected to the course. Information about daily classes, due dates, homework, resources, etc. will be posted on the website. The website will be maintained and updated when required.

The class website can be accessed via the link: www.missfingas.weebly.com and students will find information about Grade 9 English Language Arts by selecting the appropriate tab.

***Routines***

* Leave your phone and/or iPod in the pink bucket at the front of the classroom on your way to your seat.
* Please be seated and quiet when the buzzer signals the beginning of class.
* Have all your supplies with you (binder, novels, pens/pencils, etc.).
* Be ready for instructions and/or the class opener.
* If you are later, please enter quietly, engage in the activity we are doing, and be prepared to explain your reason for being late.
* Be a respectful and active learner.