Language Arts 10 Course Outline

Semester 1 (September 2013 – January 2014)

Ms. Verner

Welcome to Language Arts 10! We will be covering the three strands of the English Curriculum in all sorts of creative ways.

In our **reading** program, you will engage in independent and shared reading, and will respond to your reading through journals, discussions, projects, mini-assignments, and sometimes quizzes and tests. You will be required to read independently during SSR, and it is expected that you will also read at home, especially with regards to the novel study. Our novel has a large number of chapters, and the expectation is that by grade ten, many of those chapters will be read independently at home in order to enhance the flow of the unit. You will not complete projects on SSR books, rather you will conference with me and be asked to complete demand activities on your book, some of which might be presentation based. You can access the many resources that are available in our school library.

Our **writing** program will take the form of a writing workshop, which means that students may travel through the writing process at different speeds. Writing workshop will always begin with a quick write or a mini-lesson on grammar, writing techniques, the writing process, or issues concerning our current genre. You must have a **hard cover writers notebook**, which will be used for quick writes, journaling, prewriting, and drafting.

You will also have the opportunity to brush up on your **speaking and listening** skills, which are an important part of the provincial curriculum. I realize that speaking in front of peers is an area of struggle for many teenagers, but you will be expected to contribute to discussions in partners, small groups, and whole class discussions.

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**Unit 1- Writing Strategies (Personal Essay)**

This introductory unit will allow us to review some of the writing strategies that you have learned over the past few years (using the writing process, 6+1 Traits of Writing) in a writing workshop approach. Through the use of mentor texts, you will learn some creative craft techniques for essay writing. This mini-unit will prepare you for the larger essay unit second semester.

**Unit 2- Novel Study: *To Kill a Mockingbird***

* This will be a project-based unit that includes further exploration of reading and writing strategies as well as oral discussion and presentation skills.
* Primary focus on response using quotation integration
* Context study – Civil Rights Movement and the Great Depression
* Elements of a novel

**Unit 3- Short Stories**

* Review of the reading comprehension strategies (connecting, questioning, predicting, inferring, determining importance, visualizing)
* Short story terms and characteristics
* Reading as a writer, with particular reference to the writing of “suspense”
* If time, students will write their own piece of flash fiction.

**Continuous Unit**

* + You will enhance your close reading and response skills through “Article of the Week”. Students will be given a non-fiction news article or infographic on Monday of each week – you will do a close reading and complete a response to the article, which will be due on Friday of each week. This activity will help broaden your reading experience and give you more background knowledge and experience to bring to new texts.

**The course will be marked as follows:**

* Class work/ Speaking (participation, book talks, homework checks, etc.): 10%
* Assignments/Tests (Writer’s Notebook, projects, tests, quizzes,

writing tasks): 60%

* Final Exam: 30%

**10% will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. All assignments are due by 3:20 pm on the due date and must be handed in on paper (no emails or flash drives accepted). Students are responsible for printing assignments and class time will not be provided for this.**

**Materials Needed:**

1 3 ring binder

1 Hard Covered Journal

Dictionary and Thesaurus (can be on a device)

Pens and Pencils

Highlighters

**Please use my website to access homework, handouts, etc that are related to the course. To get to the website, go to** [**http://mvhs.nbed.nb.ca**](http://mvhs.nbed.nb.ca)**, then to “Teacher Pages”, and then click on my name.**

**I look forward to working with all of you this semester! Good luck!**

**Ms. Verner**