**Language Arts 9 (A)   
Course Outline  
September 2023-January 2024  
morgan.matchett@nbed.nb.ca**

Language Arts is structured as a reading and writing workshop with an emphasis on not only preparing students for the English Language Proficiency Assessment, but also developing life-long literacy skills.

**Writing and Reading Skills Covered in LA 9A**

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|  | **Writing/Writing Representing** | **Reading** | **Speaking and Listening** |
| **Narrative** | Story, fable, legend, graphic fiction  Visual/multimedia collage, photo essay, model, script | -short stories  -personal reading  - class novel  -play/script  -Book club | -group work  -writing/reading conferences  -book talks/ presentations  -teacher/student book conferences |
| **ELPA Preparation** |  | -reading strategies  -reading a variety of genres | -group work |
| **Poetry** | -“playing” with poetry in Writers’ Notebooks  -poetry analysis | -poetic devices  -poetry analysis (poems/songs/rap) | -group work  -writing/reading conferences  -reciting  -spoken word |
| **Weekly/Monthly** | -daily quick writes  -writing craft mini-lessons  -editing mini-lessons  -Article of the Week/Month Critical Reflection | -daily SSR (sustained silent reading)  -minimum 2 hours of reading homework a week  -reading goals  -Article of the Month | -book talks  -partner discussions |

Speaking skills will be incorporated into each unit of study, and students are expected to be active participants in class, partner and group discussions.

**Class Expectations:**

* Students are expected to be prepared each day for class with:
* an independent novel
* Writer’s Notebook
* Pens and pencils
* Students are expected to be on time for class and treat others with respect.
* Attendance is very important. Students are responsible for catching up on missed class work and assignments and must present a written excuse or phone call to the office upon return to class.
* **There will be a zero-tolerance policy for phones in the classroom**

**Materials Needed:**

* 1 duotang
* Post-it notes or tabs
* 1 binder
* Pens and pencils
* Highlighters
* Looseleaf
* Independent Novel

**Evaluation:**

* **Unit 1:** Intro to Reading and Writing Grade 9 - 15%
* **Unit 2:** Short Stories - 25%
* **Unit 3:** Poetry – 10%
* **Ongoing Unit -** Independent Reading and Application – 20%
* **Final Assessment –** 30%\*

***\*Depending on incentives earned, a student's final mark could be valued at 50%, 30% or 15%.***

**To reach Academic Incentives a student must meet the following criteria**:

* miss 7 or fewer classes in all subjects ( 3 times tardy for a class will constitute one class missed)
* student must be in good standing in the course by having all their
* assignments, projects, tests, quizzes, etc. completed to the teacher’s satisfaction in a timely matter
* students must have a passing grade in the course.

**Important information regarding late assignments:** All assignments are due by 3:20 pm on the due date and must be handed in on paper (no electronic submissions). Students are responsible for printing assignments and class time will not be provided for this.

Assignments passed in after the due date will be deducted 10% for the first four days it is late. The assignment will be valued at 60% for days 5, 6 and 7. After day 7, the mark is zero.

All assignments must be passed in, or the course will be considered incomplete.

**Important information regarding in class assignments:** If a student misses an in-class assignment or activity for any reason, they will automatically receive a 0 in PowerSchool. It will be up to the student to make arrangements with the teacher to make up for the missing assignment within 5 school days.

Note to Parents/Guardians:

Contact with students’ families is very important, and I would like to have as much communication with you as possible this semester. Please let me know your preferred means of contact, whether by email or phone.

You will notice that students will not have a lot of homework for Language Arts to complete. This course operates as a reading and writing workshop, so the majority of the work is done in class, and I conference with students to help them with their reading and writing. They will be given assignments that have to be typed outside of class, but other than that, writing is completed at school so they can get support with the process.

Students are expected to be reading from their independent novel at home, however, so please ensure that students are reading on a daily basis. They can choose their independent novel from my classroom library, the school library, or bring one for home. I encourage students to choose a novel that they will enjoy, and I will work with them through the semester to set goals in their reading. Goals are all personal, ranging from reading a longer novel, reading a novel outside of their comfort zone, reading more challenging texts, etc.

I will also gladly accept book or magazine donations for my classroom library. Lots of choice of reading material is important, and I appreciate any donations you can make!

Thank you for your support,

Morgan Matchett

*Please sign and return this portion*

**Name of student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian name(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Contact information:**

**Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email (if you would like to be contacted this way): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**