



Course Syllabus

Subject: English Language Arts (Literature)

School Year: 2023-2024

Teacher: Mr. Alexander

Grade: 8

Email: ialexander@disk.kh.edu.tw

Course Description:

The course will develop the students' knowledge, confidence and communication skills in all areas of language: reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar and vocabulary. The primary focus in language arts class will be on literature, different writing styles, demonstration of the rules of grammar, and the ability to express yourself orally.

Students can expect to read a variety of literary genres, and what the students read will model the different writing styles we will be working on in class. Writing assignments will include timed responses, essays, critiques, and creative pieces. Vocabulary, spelling, and grammar assignments will also be an important part of this course. Because we are a community of learners, students will work periodically in group situations and present information to their peers in groups or individually.

Please understand that independent at-home reading and writing is expected and is a component of this course.

Course Requirements:

The course will be conducted through lectures, discussions, practice material, projects, and student presentations. In order to experience a successful outcome, students need to:

- ✓ Participate in class discussion, ask questions and contribute ideas, thoughts and opinions
- ✓ Complete each assignment on time
- ✓ Communicate concerns to teachers and ask for help when needed
- ✓ Organize class materials and personal items
- ✓ Keep the study environment neat and tidy
- ✓ Observe all school policies as outlined in the DISK Parent-Student Handbook. This includes arriving at school on time, abiding by the dress code and speaking only English on the school grounds.

- ✓ Observe the school policy on Academic Honesty as outlined in the Handbook. All cases of academic misconduct, such as cheating on tests or plagiarism, will automatically result in a Fail grade for the assignment in addition to any sanctions that may be imposed by the Prefect of Discipline in Administration.

Note: If students have difficulty in task completion due to extenuating circumstances, an extension can be requested. Extensions are reviewed case-by-case.

Textbooks:

Collections : Grade 8 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Collections: Close Reader Grade 8 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Into Literature: Grammar Practice

· Novels for Extra Reading (Will be implemented through the Scholastic Reading Program)

Class Materials:

- Stationery (pencil, eraser, pens, whiteout etc)
- laptop computer
- a small notebook for planning (may be shared with other subjects)

Assessment:

Grades will be computed following the school wide policy of Homework, Seatwork and Projects (30%), Tests and Quizzes (30%), Quarter Exam (30%) and Department (10%).

There will be opportunities for students to show their learning through a variety of individual and group assignments/activities. The following assessment tools will be used to evaluate performance:

- End of unit grammar tests
- End of story comprehension tests (including essay answer questions)
- Productive English skills: essays, presentations, debates, story writing
- Quizzes and Quarter Tests/Exams

Classroom Rules and Expectations:

In order to develop both academically and spiritually, students need to adhere to the D'OP STARS Schoolwide Learner Outcomes. Specific attributes include:

- Be organized with class materials, on time, and follow the syllabus
- Set and meet personal study goals
- Complete all tasks
- Communicate in English
- Treat all members of the DISK community with respect

SUBJECT: Gr.8 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

(NB: timing and sections may change if deemed necessary)

Students are expected to complete 6 chapters of the Collections book, divided into 1.5 chapters per quarter. Grammar and Close Reader pages will be taught alongside relevant topics. Some parts in the Collections books will not be taught in order to give students more time to work on writing skills and study for their exams.

Quarter 1 Tentative Course Content

Week	Topics
Week 2 August 14-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Close Reader - Golden Glass● Grammar: Sentence Sense, Run-On Sentences, The Subject and the Predicate
Week 3 August 21-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Collections 1 - My Favorite Chaperone● Collections 1 - Bonne Année● Close Reader - What to Bring● Grammar: , The Simple Subject and the Simple Predicate, Compound Subjects and Compound Verbs
Week 4 August 28 - September 1st	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Collections 1 - A Place to Call Home● Collections 1 - <i>from</i> The Latehomecomer● Grammar: , Module Review, Nouns, Common, Proper, Abstract, and Concrete Nouns, Pronouns
Week 5 September 4 - 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Collections 1 - New Immigrants Share Their Stories● Close Reader - Museum Indians● Grammar: , Demonstrative and Relative Pronouns, Adjectives, Proper Adjectives
Week 6 September 11 - 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Collections 1 - The Powwow at the End of the World● Performance Task● Grammar: Module Review, Verbs, Linking Verbs, Helping Verbs

<p>Week 7 September 18 - 22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collections 2 - The Tell-Tale Heart ● Collections 2 - Scary Tales ● Grammar: Adverbs, Review Exercise, Prepositions
<p>Week 8 September 25-28 Vacation on the 29th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Close Reader - The Outsider ● Exam study skills ● Grammar: Conjunctions and Interjections, Module Review
<p>Week 9 October 2-6</p>	Exam Week

Quarter 2 Tentative Course Content

Week	Topics
<p>Week 1 October 11-13 Vacation on the 9-10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Close Reader - Frankenstein ● Collections 2 - The Monkey's Paw ● Grammar: Direct Objects, Indirect Objects
<p>Week 2 October 16-20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Close Reader - Man-Made Monsters ● Collections 2 - <i>from</i> The Monkey's Paw ● Grammar: Predicate Nominatives, Predicate Adjectives, Module Review
<p>Week 3 October 23-27</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collections 2 - What is the Horror Genre? ● Literary Analysis ● Grammar: Prepositional Phrases, Adjective Phrases, Adverb Phrases
<p>Week 4 Oct 30 - Nov 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collections 3 - <i>From</i> The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave ● Close Reader - My Friend Douglass ● Grammar: Review Exercise, Participles and Participle Phrases, Gerunds and Gerund Phrases
<p>Week 5 November 6 - 14 (spread over two weeks)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collections 3 - The Drummer Boy of Shiloh ● Collections 3 - The Funeral of Abraham Lincoln and the Manhunt for Jefferson Davis ● Grammar: Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases, Module Review, Independent and Subordinate Clauses

Week 6 November 20 - 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Close Reader - A Mystery of Heroism ● Grammar: The Adjective Clause, The Adverb Clause, The Noun Clause, Module Review, Simple and Compound Sentences
Week 7 November 27 - December 1st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Close Reader - Civil War Journal ● Collaborative Discussion ● Grammar: Complex and Compound - Complex Sentences, Module Review, Agreement of Subject and Verb, Prepositional Phrase Interrupters
Week 8 December 4-8	Exam week
Week 9 December 11 - 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Catchup time / Christmas activities
Vacation	Christmas break December 16 - January 3rd

Quarter 3 Tentative Course Content

Week	Topics
Week 1 January 3 - 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collections 4- Marigolds ● Collections 4 - Hanging Fire / Teenagers ● Grammar: Singular and Plural Indefinite Pronouns, All, Any, Most, None, and Some
Week 2 January 8 - 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collections 4 - When do Kids Become Adults? ● Close Reader - The Whistle ● Grammar: Review Exercise 1, Compound Subjects, Other Agreement Problems, Don't and Doesn't
Week 3 January 15 - 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collections 4 - Is 16 Too Young to Drive a Car? ● Collections 4 - Fatal Car Crashes Drop for 16-Year-Olds, Rise for Older Teens ● Collections 4 - Your Phone Can Wait ● Collections 4 -Driving Distracted ● Grammar: Review Exercise 2, Pronoun Agreement, Module Review
Week 4 January 22 - 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Close Reader - Identity ● Close Reader - Hard on the Gas ● Produce a Multimedia Campaign

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grammar: Principle Parts and Regular Verbs, Irregular Verbs, Verb Tense, Sit and Set, Rise and Raise
<p>Week 5 January 29 - Feb 5th (extended week)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Close Reader - Much Too Young to Work so Hard ● Collections 5 -The Diary of Anne Frank (Scene 1-3) ● Grammar: Lie and Lay, Module Review, Case of Pronouns, Nominative Case Pronouns
Vacation	CNY break from February 8 - 18
<p>Week 7 February 19 - 23</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collections 5 - The Diary of Anne Frank (Scene 4 - End of Act 1) ● Grammar: Pronouns as Direct Objects, Other Objective Case Pronoun Uses, Who and Whom, Pronoun Appositives and Reflexive Pronouns
<p>Week 8 February 26 - March 1 February 28th is a vacation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collections 5 - The Diary of Anne Frank (Act 2) ● Grammar: Module Review, Comparison of Adjectives and Adverbs
<p>Week 9 March 4-8</p>	Exam week
<p>Week 1 March 11-15</p>	ITBS tests

Quarter 4 Tentative Course Content

Week	Topics
<p>Week 2 March 18 - 22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collections 5 - From The Diary of a Young Girl ● Collections 5 - After Auschwitz ● Collections 5 - There But for the Grace ● Grammar: Irregular Comparison, Review Exercise, Other Modifier Problems, Placement of Modifiers
vacation	No school March 25 - April 5
<p>Week 3 April 8 - 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Informative Essay ● Collections 6 -From the Adventures of Tom Sawyer ● Grammar: Placement of Participle Phrases, Placement of Adjective Clauses, Module Review, Accept / Bad, Badly
<p>Week 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Close Reader - The Flying Machine

<p>April 15 - 19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Close Reader - The Flying Machine (graphic story) ● Collections 6 - One Last Time ● Grammar: Because / Hardly, Scarcely, Hissself / Try and, Well / Your / You're, Module Review
<p>Week 5 April 22 - 26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collections 6 - Teens Need Jobs, Not Just Cash ● Collections 6 - Teens at Work ● Close Reader - The Real McCoy ● Grammar: The Pronouns I and Proper Nouns, Places and People
<p>Week 6 April 29 - May 3rd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collections 6 - Chicago, Find Work, My Mother Enters the Workforce ● Grammar: Groups, Organizations, and Religions, Objects, Events, Structures, and Award Titles, School Subjects, First Words, Proper Adjectives, Module Review
<p>Week 7 May 6 - 10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Close Reader - To Be of Use, A Story of How a Wall Stands ● Write an Argument ● Grammar: End Marks and Abbreviations, Commas in a Series, Commas with Compound Sentences, Commas with Interrupters, Other Uses of the Comma
<p>Week 8 May 13 - 17</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grammar: Introductory Words, Phrases, and Clauses, Dates, Addresses and Friendly Letters, Review Exercise, Semicolons, Colons, Module Review
<p>Week 9 May 20 -24</p>	<p>Exams Q4</p>