

ENGLISH 8

COURSE OUTLINE AND CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Mr. D McGuire (B114)

Welcome to English 8, a course that uses literature as a tool to teach and promote literacy. Students in the English 8 classroom can expect, by year's end, to be more proficient readers and writers. The following content areas and skills will be the focus of this year...

- Novel Studies: Touching Spirit Bear, plus an Independent Novel study using Literature Circles.
- Short Stories: A selection of unique and varied stories.
- Non-Fiction prose: A selection of topical pieces.
- Poetry
- Grammar
- Writing: 30% of your mark will be taken directly from writing. The teaching of writing will include the very basic elements of grammar and syntax, moving from sentence building, through paragraph writing, and transitioning into essay composition.

SUPPLIES: You must arrive to each class equipped with the proper supplies. You will need:

- a binder
- an ample supply of lined, loose-leaf paper
- pencil case
- ruler
- pens for writing (dark blue or black only! **No funky colours!**)
- red pen
- highlighter
- pencils
- a good eraser
- any textbook we are using
- and, most importantly, **YOUR AGENDA BOOK!!!**

PREPAREDNESS: You are expected to come to class with ALL the necessary supplies, textbooks, and homework assignments.

ATTENDANCE: It is important that students attend every class. If an absence cannot be avoided, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed, and to complete any assignment. A signed note from a parent or guardian explaining the reason for the absence must be given to the teacher when you return. If you are absent for a test, you will be required to write the test on the day you return.

Please be on time. If you arrive late to a job, you could be fired. If you arrive late to my class, you may be forced to spend extra time in the class at lunch or after school.

HOMEWORK: You are expected to submit all assignments on time. Homework assignments will be checked at the beginning of class; major assignments must be submitted before you leave class on the due date. Late assignments will be penalized in accordance with English Department policy,

EXTRA HELP: If you are having difficulty with any concepts or assignments, or if you wish extra help, please ask me. I'm here to help.

MARKS: Your mark will be collected from a variety of sources, including tests, quizzes, projects, homework, group work, participation, and writing. Please remember that 30% of your overall mark will come from writing.

LETTER GRADES / PERCENTAGE POINT CUTOFFS:

A	86–100%
B	73–85%
C+	67–72%
C	60–66%
C–	50–59%
I	below 50% ☹

PARENTS:

If your parents have any questions about this course, or any concern about your progress, please have them contact me via e-mail at **dmcguire@vsb.bc.ca**, or phone the school at 604–713–8950. Mention that I answer e-mails promptly, but that I am less prompt when it comes to phone calls.