

Gr.8 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) COURSE SYLLABUS

GRADE LEVEL: 8 SCHOOL YEAR: 2024-25

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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 essential 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 are a component of this course.

AREA OF STUDY:

Reading Literature (RL) Short Story, Drama, Historical Fiction, Memoir, Folklore, Poetry, Novel

Reading Informational Text (RI) Autobiography, Biography, Essays, Scientific and historical articles, Speeches

Writing (W) Writing Process, Narrative, Persuasion, Exposition, Conducting Research, Response to

Literature, Poetry

Language (L) <u>Vocabulary</u>: Critical Reading Vocabulary, Academic Vocabulary, Word Parts

Grammar: 8 Parts of Speech, Usage, Capitalization and Punctuation

Speaking and Listening (SL) Oral Reading, Presentations, Discussions, Skits/Acting

COURSE STANDARDS:

The English department has adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in K-12 English Language Arts, which were released by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers in the United States.

The Common Core standards for English Language Arts are based on research and evidence that describe the competencies necessary for all students to become college and career-ready by the end of high school. The CCSS outline a vision of what it means to be a literate person in the 21st Century.

The CCSS are organized into five strands:

- Reading Literature (RL)
- Reading Informational Text (RI)
- Writing (W)
- Speaking and Listening (SL)
- Language (L)

· Critical thinker

LIFELONG LEARNING STANDARDS:

- Knowledgeable person
- Effective communicator Self-directed learner
- Quality producer
- Contributing citizen

KEY CCSS OBJECTIVES:

- By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at the high end of grades 6-8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.
- By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at the high end of the grades 6-8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.
- Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.
- Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.
- Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

ASSESSMENT:

Grades will be computed following the school-wide policy of Homework, Seatwork, and Projects (30%), Tests and Quizzes (30%), Quarter Exam (30%), and Deportment (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:

· Various writing rubrics; Presentation/oral rubrics; Quizzes and Quarter Tests/Exams; Peer evaluation

TEXTS:

G8 - HMH Into Literature & Writable Class Novels

REFERENCE / LINKS:

School website: http://www.dishs.tp.edu.tw

Online Dictionaries: http://dictionary.cambridge.org http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/

Publisher websites: https://www.hmhco.com/ui/login/

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

• Writing materials + Pocket English dictionary

• 1 - Notebook (B4/A4 - Ensure it is unique and easy to identify in your locker.)

HOMEWORK RULES:

- Google Classroom code will be shared with the students.
- All assignments must be turned in on the day they are due.
- 1 day late = Minus 10%
- 2 days late = Only 60%
- $3 + \text{ days late} = \underline{\text{Project-I}} \& \text{ Only } 60\%$
- If a student has been absent, it is his/her duty to find out what work is due and hand it in a day later.

CLASSROOM RULES:

All students are expected to follow school and classroom rules. Consequences will follow if rules are broken. Below are the five golden rules:

- 1. Come to class on time and be prepared.
- 2. Have a positive attitude and be willing to learn.
- 3. Respect yourself, others, and our school.
- 4. Always complete your work and try your best.
- 5. Actively participate, listen carefully, but don't speak out of turn.

DISCIPLINE:

Please refer to the student handbook.

<u>ACADEMIC DISHONESTY</u> means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that contravenes the standards of ethical integrity expected at DIS. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to, the following:

- 1. Purposely incorporating the ideas, words of sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof without appropriate acknowledgment and representing the product as one's own work; and
- 1. Representing another's intellectual work such as photographs, paintings, drawings, sculpture, or research or the like as one's own, including failure to attribute content to an AI.
- 2. Employing a tutor, making use of Artificial Intelligence without acknowledgement, getting a parent to write a paper or do an assignment, paying for an essay to be written by someone else and presented as the student's own work.
- 3. Committing any act that a reasonable person would conclude, when informed of the evidence, to be a dishonest means of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work.

Any act of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic zero on the entire assignment

SUBJECT: Gr.8 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) 1st QUARTER – TENTATIVE COURSE CONTENT

(NB: Depending on time and interest, the teacher may delete and/or add other selections.)	
Week / Date	Topic / Projects / Assessments
Week 1 Aug 12 th to 16 th 4 Days of Class 12~ First Day / Orientation Day 15~ Opening Mass & Assumption of Our Lady 8:00 15~ Induction of Class, Student Council Officers and DYM	Into Literature – Unit 1: Gadgets and Glitches • Course Introduction / Unit 1 Opener (2) • Analyze & Apply: Are Bionic Superhumans on the Horizon? p.16-27 (2) HMH Writing/Grammar: • Course Introduction (1) • M1 – The Sentence (1)
Week 2 Aug 19 th to 23 rd	Into Literature – Unit 1: Gadgets and Glitches • Analyze & Apply: Are Bionic Superhumans on the Horizon? p.16-27 (2) • Growth Measure Reading Test - BOY (2) HMH Writing/Grammar: • M1 – The Sentence (1) Vocabulary (1) ~ Prefixes YSC: Introduction + Assign Groups + Explain Online brainstorming (2) Independent Study: • YSC: HW = Online brainstorming
Week 3 Aug 26st to 30th 26~Fire drill? 26~Middle and High School Catholic Bridge Program (after assembly) 28~St. Dominic de Guzman Feast Day Celebration	Into Literature – Unit 1: Gadgets and Glitches ■ Assessment: Are Bionic Superhumans on the Horizon? (1) ■ Collaborate & Compare: The Automation Paradox p.36-49 (2) HMH Writing/Grammar: ■ M1 – The Sentence: Cont. (1) ■ Write an Argument: Introduction & Prewriting (2) YSC: Final brainstorming + Start Planning (2) Independent Study: ■ YSC: HW = Online planning
Week 4 Sep 2 nd to 6 th 2~House Ceremony	Into Literature – Unit 1: Gadgets and Glitches
Week 5 Sep 9 th to 13 th 9~ Mass & Birthday Mother Mary& VIP Induction	Into Literature – Unit 1: Gadgets and Glitches

Week 6 Sep 16 th to 20 th 1 Day of Class 17~Moon Festival 18-20~ Teacher's Conference	 Into Literature – Unit 1: Gadgets and Glitches Analyze & Apply: The Brave Little Toaster p.4-15 (2) Independent Study: YSC: HW = Writers Will finish writing the first draft (Scenes 4-6). Other Students will monitor the writer's progress and offer feedback.
Week 7 Sep 23 rd to 27 th 24-26~Pre-Exam Days	Into Literature – Unit 1: Gadgets and Glitches ■ Assessment: The Brave Little Toaster p.4-15 (1) ■ Analyze & Apply: Interflora p.28-35 (3) ■ Read a Play: The Hitchhiker + Drama Elements p.439 (1) HMH Writing/Grammar: ■ Write an Argument: Revise, Edit and Publish (2) Novel: Introduction: Stargirl - Introduction/SSR (1) Independent Study: ■ YSC: HW = Writers Will finish writing the first draft (Scenes 4-6). Other Students will monitor the writer's progress and offer feedback. Scripts Due on September 27 th ■ Read - The Stargirl Ch.1-17
Week 8 Sep 30 th to Oct 4 th	Into Literature – Unit 1+6: Drama Study • Assessment: Interflora p.28-35 (1) • Read a Play: The Hitchhiker + Drama Elements p.439 Cont. (1) • Exam Prep. & Review (2) • Vocabulary Study/Review (1) HMH Writing/Grammar: • M7 – Sentence Structure Cont. (2) • Assessment: M1 + M7 Sentences (1) Independent Study: • Read - The Stargirl Ch.1-17
Week 9 Oct 7 th to 11 th 1 Day of Class 7~Launching - Rosary Month and Bullying Prevention Day 8-9 ~Q1 Exams 10~Double Ten 11~Record Day	HMH Writing/Grammar: • Exam Prep. & Review (2) Q1 Exams (Half Day) Independent Study: • Read - The Stargirl Ch.1-17

$\underline{\mathbf{2^{nd}\ QUARTER-TENTATIVE\ COURSE\ CONTENT}}$

(NB: Depending on time and interest, the teacher may delete and/or add other selections.)	
Week / Date	Topic / Projects / Assessments
Week 1 (10) Oct 14th th to 18 th 14~ Second Quarter Begins	Review Q1 Exam (1) Into Literature – Unit 2: The Thrill of Horror Introduction / Unit 2 Opener (1) HMH Writing/Grammar: M2 – Part of Speech I: Nouns & Pronouns (2) M2 – Part of Speech I: Adjectives (1) VSC: Read through + Plan the 1 Practice (2) Novel: Activity/SSR: Stargirl Ch.1 17 (1) Independent Study: YSC: Check Google Classroom Review - Stargirl Ch.1-17
Week 2 (11) Oct 21st to 25th	Into Literature – Unit 2: The Thrill of Horror ■ Analyze & Apply: What is the Horror Genre? p.82-93 (4)

25 – Book Fair 25- Masquerade Night	<u>HMH Writing/Grammar:</u>
	Vocabulary (-) ~ Suffixes
	YSC: Practice & Preparation (2)
	Novel: TEST: Stargirl Ch.1-11 (1)
	Independent Study:
	 YSC: Check Google Classroom Read - Stargirl Ch.18 - 33
	Redu - Stategili Cit. 10 33
	<u>Into Literature – Unit 2</u> : The Thrill of Horror
	Assessment: What is the Horror Genre? (1) Analysis & Analysis The Tall Tall Heaving 04 107 (4)
	• Analyze & Apply: The Tell-Tale Heart p.94-107 (4) HMH Writing/Grammar:
Week 3 (12)	• <u>Assessment</u> : M2 – Part of Speech I (1)
Oct 28 th to Nov 1 st 1-All Saint's Day Mass	YSC: Practice & Preparation (2)
	Independent Study:
	YSC: Check Google Classroom
	• Read - Stargirl Ch.18 - 33
	<u>Into Literature – Unit 2</u> : The Thrill of Horror
	• Assessment: The Tell-Tale Heart (1)
	• Collaborate & Compare: The Monkey's Paw p.108-129 (3) HMH Writing/Grammar:
Week 4 (13)	• M3 – Part of Speech II: Verbs & Adverbs (2)
Nov 4th to Nov 8th	
	YSC: Practice & Preparation (2) Nevel: A stignity (SSP). Staggiel Ch. 18 22 (1)
	Novel: Activity/SSR: Stargirl Ch.18 - 33 (1) Independent Study:
	YSC: Check Google Classroom
	• Read - Stargirl Ch.18 - 33
	Into Literature – Unit 2: The Thrill of Horror
	• Collaborate & Compare: The Monkey's Paw p.108-129 (3)
	HMH Writing/Grammar: ■ M3 – Part of Speech II: Verbs & Adverbs (Cont.) (1)
Week 5 (14)	MIS—Tart of Speech II. Velos & Advelos (Cont.) (1)
Nov 11 th to 15 th	YSC: Practice & Preparation (2)
	Novel: TEST: Stargirl Ch.18 - 33 (1) A Monster Calls - Introduction/SSR (-)
	Independent Study:
	• Read - A Monster Calls Ch.1-14
	Into Literature – Unit 2: The Thrill of Horror
	• Collaborate & Compare: from The Monkey's Paw p.130-133 (4)
Week 6 (15)	<u>HMH Writing/Grammar:</u> • <u>M3 − Part of Speech II</u> : Prepositions, Conjunctions & Interjections (1)
Nov 18th to 22nd	MIS – Part of Speech II: Prepositions, Conjunctions & Interjections (1)
22-Gr.12 Q2 Exam 22 - YSC Contest	YSC: Extra Practice / Dress Rehearsal + YSC Competition (2)
	Novel: SSR: A Monster Calls Ch. 1 14 (1)
	Independent Study: • Read - A Monster Calls Ch.1-14
	Into Literature – Unit 2: The Thrill of Horror
	• Assessment: The Monkey's Paw (1)
Week 7 16) Nov 25 th to 29 th	• Collaborate & Compare: from The Aeneid of Virgil p.136-142 (3)
25-Gr.12 Q2 Exam	HMH Writing/Grammar:
26-28~Pre-Exam Day	• <u>M3 – Part of Speech II</u> : Prepositions, Conjunctions & Interjections (Cont.) (2)
	Novel: Activity/SSR: A Monster Calls Ch.1-14 (1)
	Independent Study:

	• Review - A Monster Calls Ch.1-14
Week 8 (17) Dec 2 nd to Dec 6 th 6~Half Day Foundation Day Celebrations	Into Literature – Unit 2: The Thrill of Horror
Week 9 (18) Dec 9 th to 13 th 3 Days of Class 12-13 ~Q2 Exams	Into Literature – Unit 2: The Thrill of Horror • Collaborate & Compare: from Hades: Lord of the Dead p.143-155 (1) • Assessment: from The Aeneid of Virgil + from Hades: Lord of the Dead (1) • Exam Prep. & Review (1) HMH Writing/Grammar: • Exam Prep. & Review (2) Independent Study: • Read - A Monster Calls Ch.15-33 Q2 Exams (Half Day)
Dec 16 th to Jan 3 rd	

<u>3rd QUARTER – TENTATIVE COURSE CONTENT</u>

(NB: Depending on time and interest, the teacher may delete and/or add other selections.)	
Week / Date	Topic / Projects / Assessments
Week 1 (19) Jan 6 th to 10 th 4 Days of Class 6~Record Day 7~Third Quarter Begins 10 ~ New Year Mass	Review Q2 Exam (1) Into Literature – Unit 4: The Fight for Freedom Introduction / Unit 4 Opener (1) Growth Measure Reading Test - MOY (1) HMH Writing/Grammar: Write a Research Report: Introduction + Model Examples + Prewriting (2) Novel: SSR/Activity: A Monster Calls Ch.15-33 (1) Independent Study: Review - A Monster Calls Ch.15-33
Week 2 (20) Jan 13 th to 17 th	Into Literature – Unit 4: The Fight for Freedom • Analyze & Apply: from Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass p.264-275 (4) HMH Writing/Grammar: • Write a Research Report: Prewriting + Research Lessons (2) • M9 – Using Verbs Correctly: Principal Parts & Regular Verbs (1) Novel: TEST: A Monster Calls Ch.15-33 (1)
Week 3 (21) Jan 20 th to 24 th	Into Literature – Unit 4: The Fight for Freedom • Assessment: from Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (1) • Analyze & Apply: The Drummer Boy of Shiloh p.276-289 (4) HMH Writing/Grammar: • Write a Research Report: Drafting + Research Lessons (2) Novel: The Outsiders - Introduction/SSR (1) Independent Study:

	• Read - The Outsiders Ch.1-6
Jan 27 th to Jan 31 st	Chinese New Year
Week 4 (22) Feb 3 rd to 7 th	Into Literature – Unit 4: The Fight for Freedom • Assessment: The Drummer Boy of Shiloh (1) • Analyze & Apply: O Captain! My Captain! p.290-297 (3) HMH Writing/Grammar: • Write a Research Report: Drafting (2) • M9 – Using Verbs Correctly: Regular Verbs Cont. + Irregular Verbs (1) Novel: SSR: The Outsiders - Ch.1-6 (1) Independent Study: • Read - The Outsiders Ch.1-6
Week 5 (23) Feb 10 th to 14 th 1-14~Catholic Week	Into Literature – Unit 4: The Fight for Freedom • Assessment: O Captain! My Captain! (1) • Analyze & Apply: from Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad p.298-317 (3) HMH Writing/Grammar: • Write a Research Report: Revise, Edit and Publish + Peer Review (2) • M9 − Using Verbs Correctly: Verb Tenses (1) Novel: Activity/SSR: The Outsiders - Ch.1-6 (1) Independent Study: • Review - The Outsiders Ch.1-6
Week 6 (24) Feb 17 th to 21 st	Into Literature – Unit 4: The Fight for Freedom • Analyze & Apply: from Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad p.298-317 (3) • Assessment: from Harriet Tubman: Conductor (1) HMH Writing/Grammar: • M9 – Using Verbs Correctly: Verb Tenses (2) • Assessment: M9 – Using Verbs Correctly (1) Vocabulary: Word Roots; Specialized Vocabulary: Health & Banking Terms (1) Independent Study: • Read - The Outsiders Ch.6-12 • Vocabulary - Word Roots; Specialized Vocabulary: Health & Banking Terms
Week 7 (25) Feb 24 th to 28 th 4 Days of Class 24~Lenten Mass? 25-27 ~ Pre-Exam Days 24-27~IOWA Assessments 28 ~ Memorial Day Holiday	HMH Writing/Grammar: • Write a Research Report: Presentations (5) Novel: TEST: The Outsiders - Ch.1-6 (1) Independent Study: • Read - The Outsiders Ch.6-12 • Vocabulary - Word Roots; Specialized Vocabulary: Health & Banking Terms
Week 8 (26) March 3 rd to 7 th 5~ Ash Wednesday	Into Literature – Unit 4: The Fight for Freedom
Week 9 (27) March 10 th to 14 th <u>4 Days of Class</u> 14 – Q3 Exams	Into Literature – Unit 4: The Fight for Freedom • Assessment: Not My Bones / from Fortune's Bones p.318-331 (1) • Exam Prep. & Review (2) HMH Writing/Grammar: • Exam Prep. & Review (1)

Vocabulary: REVIEW - Word Roots; Specialized Vocabulary: Health & Banking Terms (1) Independent Study: Read - The Outsiders Ch.6-12
Q3 Exam (Half Day)

4th QUARTER – TENTATIVE COURSE CONTENT

(NB: Depending on time and interest, the teacher may delete and/or add other selections.)	
Week / Date	Topic / Projects / Assessments
Week 1 (28) March 17 th 21 st 4 Days of Class 17 – Q3 Exams 18~ Fourth Quarter Begins 18~ Fire Drill? 19~ Feast of St. Joseph	Review Q3 Exam (1) Into Literature – Unit 3: Places We Call Home Introduction / Unit 3 Opener (0.5) Analyze & Apply: from The Book of the Unknown Americans p.174–189 (1.5) HMH Writing/Grammar: Write a Personal Narrative: Introduction + Brainstorming/ Prewriting (2) Novel: Activity/SSR: The Outsiders - Ch.6-12 (1) Independent Study: Review - The Outsiders Ch.5-8
Week 2 (29) March 24 th to 28 th	Into Literature – Unit 3: Places We Call Home • Analyze & Apply: from The Book of the Unknown Americans p.174–189 (4) HMH Writing/Grammar: • Write a Personal Narrative: Prewriting + Quotations & Dialogue (1) Novel: TEST: The Outsiders - Ch.6-12 (1) Independent Study: • Student's Choice: Research novel options and select one.
Week 3 (30) March 31 st to April 4 th 4 Days of Class 4~Tomb Sweeping	Into Literature – Unit 3: Places We Call Home • Assessment: from The Book of the Unknown Americans (1) • Analyze & Apply: My Favorite Chaperone p.190–219 (4) HMH Writing/Grammar: • Write a Personal Narrative: Drafting (2) • M13 – Capital Letters (1) Independent Study: • Read: Novel = Student's Choice
Week 4 (31) Apr 7 th to 11 th	Into Literature – Unit 3: Places We Call Home • Analyze & Apply: My Favorite Chaperone p.190–219 Cont. (4) HMH Writing/Grammar: • Write a Personal Narrative: Revising, Editing & Publishing (2) • M13 – Capital Letters (1) Independent Study: • Read: Novel = Student's Choice • Vocabulary ~ Specialized Vocabulary: French & Geo. Terms
April 14 th to April 18 th	Easter Break
Week 5 (32) Apr 21 st to 25 th 23~Easter Mass 21-25 ~ AP Mock Exams 26~Spring Fair	Into Literature – Unit 3: Places We Call Home • Assessment: My Favorite Chaperone (1) • Collaborate & Compare: New Immigrants Share Their Stories p. 228–230 / A Common Bond p.231–247 (6) • Analyze & Apply: Spirit Walking in the Tundra p.220–227 (4) HMH Writing/Grammar:

	• <u>M13 – Capital Letters</u> (1)
	Independent Study: ■ Read: Novel = Student's Choice
Week 6 (33) Apr 28 th to May 2 nd 4/29-5/1~ Pre-Exam Days 1-2~ Final Exams (K, 5, 8, 12 only)	Into Literature – Unit 3: Places We Call Home
Week 7 (34) May 5 th to 9 th 5-9~ Final Exams (K, 5, 8, 12 only) 5-9 ~ AP Exams	Q4 Language Arts Exams Review Q4 Exam (1) Into Literature: • Growth Measure Reading Test - EOY (1) G8 - Clearance & Graduation Practice
Week 8 (35) May 12 th to 16 th 4 Days of Class 14-15~ Q4 Exam 16~ Record Day 12-16~ AP Exams	G8 – Clearance & Graduation Practice
Week 9 (36) May 19 th to 23 rd 19-23 ~ Student Clearance 19~ Baccalaureate Mass 23~Gr. 6 – 7 Recognition and Gr. 8 Graduation	G8 – Clearance & Graduation Practice
Week 10 (37) May 26 th to 30 th 4 Days of Class 26~House Culminating Activity 27~Gr. 9-11 Recognition and Gr. 12 Graduation 28! Class Party 29- ~ Students Last Day 30~ Teachers/Staff Meeting	