



8th Grade Language & Literature

Ms. Merriman

Willows Preparatory School 2018-19

Subject Aims

- Use language as a vehicle for thought, creativity, reflection, learning, self-expression, analysis and social interaction
- Develop the skills involved in listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and presenting in a variety of contexts
- Develop critical, creative and personal approaches to studying and analysing literary and non-literary texts
- Engage with text from different historical periods and a variety of cultures
- Explore and analyse aspects of personal, host and other cultures through literary and non-literary texts
- Explore language through a variety of media and modes
- Develop a lifelong interest in reading
- Apply linguistic and literary concepts and skills in a variety of authentic contexts

Keys to Class

- **Student-driven inquiry:** Class is student-centered and emphasizes student voice. Students are constantly exploring their own and others' interpretations of texts and connections to human life and society.
- **Texts as vehicles:** Texts are used as vehicles to explore a variety of other concepts related to language, literature and the human experience. Students explore human expression, history, conflict and more through literature. Texts are globally focused, and many are translated, set in another time and place and/or written by international authors.
- **Language instruction:** Vocabulary and English conventions are integrated into weekly instruction. Students learn in short blocks frequently over time to truly absorb the material.
- **Engagement:** Students engage in authentic activities to encourage engagement and participation.
- **Writing:** Students write creatively, analytically and for authentic contexts to develop strong written and verbal communication skills.

I.B. Grading Criteria

Objective A: Analyzing	Students develop skills in analyzing texts, their components and relationships to other texts. They establish skills in academic argumentation and supporting ideas with examples and evidence.
Objective B: Organizing	Students develop the ability to organize their ideas and opinions in a variety of forms for a variety of purposes. They learn MLA formatting and the importance of accurate referencing.
Objective C: Producing Text	Students develop skills in producing original written and spoken text, demonstrating creativity and exploring multiple perspectives.
Objective D: Using Language	Students develop skills in effective communication, meaning the appropriate use of accurate and varied language for the context and intention. They establish a secure foundation in English conventions.

Content Brief

Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
<p><i>The Iliad</i>, Homer Students study ancient Greek epics and the reflection of culture in literature. They evaluate universal human values and their impacts on conflict.</p> <p><i>National Novel Writing Month</i> Students study novel writing and write a draft of a novel in 30 days (November).</p>	<p><i>12 Angry Men</i>, Rose Students study (in)justice and law through drama. They create a campaign to expose injustices to others. They write legislation and engage in the lawmaking process with other schools digitally.</p> <p><i>Fahrenheit 451</i>, Bradbury Students study self-expression and the importance of the texts around us in the world.</p> <p><i>Anthem</i>, Rand Students study collectivism and individualism. They explore the impact of identity on written expression. They evaluate the effectiveness of a creator's choices.</p>	<p><i>Animal Farm</i>, Orwell Students continue exploring social commentary through literature. They write an allegory about power dynamics.</p> <p><i>Dust of Eden</i>, Nagai Students study Japanese internment in WW2 through a novel in verse. They evaluate the use of personal narrative to communicate about history.</p> <p><i>Salt to the Sea</i>, Sepetys Students study various perspectives of WW2 through character. They write a scene for a screenplay.</p>