



8th Grade Language and Literature

Willows Preparatory School 2019-20

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 consistently 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 and other texts. 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 mechanics 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. They establish the ability to formulate a written stance and support it with evidence.

Objective Criterion

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 data-bbox="289 873 537 906"><u><i>The Iliad, Homer</i></u></p> <p data-bbox="121 911 705 1101">Students study an ancient Greek epic and the reflection of culture in literature. They evaluate universal human instincts and drives and their impacts on conflict.</p> <p data-bbox="260 1146 567 1179"><u><i>12 Angry Men, Rose</i></u></p> <p data-bbox="121 1183 705 1448">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. They also study the art of rhetoric and persuasion.</p>	<p data-bbox="961 873 1134 906"><u><i>Ethics Bowl</i></u></p> <p data-bbox="751 911 1344 1101">Students explore some philosophy basics and the concept of ethics. They participate in an ethics bowl, strengthening their speaking skills, and write a position paper.</p> <p data-bbox="890 1146 1205 1214"><u><i>Anthem, Rand</i></u> <u><i>Animal Farm, Orwell</i></u></p> <p data-bbox="751 1219 1344 1448">Students study collectivism and individualism. They explore the impact of identity on written expression. They evaluate the effectiveness of a creator's choices and write an allegory of their own.</p>	<p data-bbox="1528 873 1839 941"><u><i>Dust of Eden, Nagai</i></u> <u><i>Hiroshima, Hersey</i></u></p> <p data-bbox="1386 946 1978 1136">Students study the Japanese experience of WW2, including the stories of survivors of the atomic bomb and internees during Japanese-American detention.</p> <p data-bbox="1503 1182 1860 1214"><u><i>Salt to the Sea, Sepetys</i></u></p> <p data-bbox="1386 1219 1978 1412">Students study various perspectives of WW2 through characters' points of view. They write a scene for a screenplay and write about life's greatest hunter.</p>