

International School of Belgrade
Grade 8 Language and Literature

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NOTE: Both class websites may also be accessed on Moodle at: <http://belgrade.ceesa.net>

Summary:

Language is fundamental to learning, thinking and communicating, therefore it permeates the whole curriculum. The power of language is best experienced through quality literature. The study of language and literature enables students to become highly proficient in their understanding and use of English. We will be exploring the following key concepts this year: perspective, connections, communication and creativity. Throughout the course we will study a variety of literary genres and engage in formal and informal writing/speaking/reading, Socratic circles and class debates/discussions/presentations.

Units:

- Unit 1: Science Fiction Short Stories
- Unit 2: *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck
- Unit 3: Living History and Text Types
- Unit 4: *Noughts & Crosses* adapted from Malorie Blackman's novel by Dominic Cooke
- Ongoing units:
 - Ten-Minute Grammar (as needed)
 - Outside Reading

Aims:

As stated in the MYP Language and Literature guide, the aims are to encourage and enable students to:

- 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.

Assessment criteria:

Assessment for is criterion-related, based on four equally weighted assessment criteria:

	Assessment Criteria	At the end of year 8, students should be able to:
A	Analysing	i. identify and explain the content, context, language, structure, technique and style of text(s) and the relationships among texts ii. identify and explain the effects of the creator’s choices on an audience iii. justify opinions and ideas, using examples, explanations and terminology
B	Organizing	i. employ organizational structures that serve the context and intention ii. organize opinions and ideas in a coherent and logical manner iii. use referencing and formatting tools to create a presentation style suitable to the context and intention.
C	Producing Text	i. produce texts that demonstrate thought, imagination and sensitivity, while exploring and considering new perspectives and ideas arising from personal engagement with the creative process ii. make stylistic choices in terms of linguistic, literary and visual devices, demonstrating awareness of impact on an audience iii. select relevant details and examples to develop ideas.
D	Using Language	i. use appropriate and varied vocabulary, sentence structures and forms of expression ii. write and speak in an appropriate register and style iii. use correct grammar, syntax and punctuation iv. spell, write and pronounce with accuracy v. use appropriate non-verbal communication techniques.

Required materials:

*Please **bring** the following materials **to every class**:*

- Notebook and folder/binder that are used just for English class
- Charged laptop
- Sharpened pencil(s), pen(s) and a set of highlighters or different colored pens
- Pencil case to put all writing instruments in
- Agenda
- Assigned text (When you are assigned one in class-school will provide)
- An additional book or other text to read (when time allows) (may be from library or home)
- Headphones*

*Use as permitted by teacher

How to be successful:

In the classroom:

- Be on time, submit all assignments on time and make up the work I have missed in a timely fashion
- Bring my academic supplies daily: notebook, folder, agenda, etc.
- Sit where I know I won't be distracted
- Respect my classmates' and my own right to learn by sitting where I know I won't be distracted and where I won't be able to distract others
- Set a daily alarm at 2:58 PM to check my agenda and look for homework
- Bookmark class website so I can easily access course information online
- Organize my digital files by class and unit on my desktop
- Avoid plagiarism by: learning proper MLA citation and strategies for paraphrasing (putting words in my own words) and summarizing and use my own ideas
- Read and re-read and re-read the descriptions for all the assessment criteria to help me meet all the expectations when I am working on assessments
- Ask for help and/or clarification (in-class, during the school day, at home, email) when I need it

Outside of the classroom:

- Set a daily alarm at 5:30 PM to remind me to do homework
- Have a dedicated place at home (or elsewhere) to complete my homework
- Ask for help as needed
- Get guidance from parents, tutor(s) and teacher, but make sure I write down my ideas in my own words so that I can get authentic feedback on how I can improve
- Plug in my laptop every night to charge for the next day
- Put needed materials in my bookbag the night before
- Read as much as possible. The more you read, the better writer you will become!