

Language Arts ~ Grade 7

Course Outline for 2019-2020

Ms. L. DeBow - ldebow@rockyview.ab.ca



Overview and Rationale

The aim of English language arts is to enable each student to understand and appreciate language, and to use it confidently and competently in a variety of situations for communication, personal satisfaction and learning.

Language learning is an active and life long process. Students enhance their language abilities by using what they know in new and more complex situations. They use prior knowledge to extend and enhance their language and understanding. The six strands of Language Arts are interrelated and interdependent; growth in one area strengthens and supports the others. The six strands are: **Listening and Speaking, Reading and Writing, and Viewing and Representing.**

General Learner Outcomes:

General Outcome 1:

Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to explore thought, ideas, feelings and experiences.

General Outcome 2:

Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, print and other media texts.

General Outcome 3:

Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to manage ideas and information.

General Outcome 4:

Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to enhance the clarity and artistry of communication.

General Outcome 5:

Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to respect, support and collaborate with others.

Course Overview:

Students will engage in a variety of Language Arts activities throughout the year involving all six strands of Language Arts. Some of the specific activities are as follows:

1. Reading and Reading Assignments:

Students will be engaged in an Independent Reading Program in which they select the novels they read. My students are to have a novel on the go at all times and they will select their novels from a wide variety of literature genres. Each month students are expected to have completed a novel and reading response. To help achieve this goal, students will have one full class period to read each week, have their novel with them at all times so they can read when they complete other course work throughout the day, and they will also be assigned 25 minutes of home reading as homework each school night. They are encouraged and expected to read at home daily but can do the 2+ hours of reading in chunks that work for them and your home schedules.

The students will respond to read aloud stories, picture books, short stories, poems, news articles, short videos, movies and their independent novels in a variety of ways to demonstrate their understanding of the text and ability to conduct literary analysis.

2. Writing Assignments:

Our writing program will encompass the four purposes of writing: descriptive, narrative, informational and persuasive. The students may engage in the following writing assignments throughout the school year: power and quick writes, personal and fictional narratives, poetry responses, friendly letters, research, and self-reflections about their writing growth. At least one assignment each term will go through the entire writing processes of: prewriting, first draft, edit, revise, second draft, edit, revise and publish. Student writing will be assessed using the six traits of writing and scoring rubrics.

Mini-lessons and spelling work are designed to improve writing of students as a class in real time. There will be explicit teaching of grammar/conventions/spelling, and in context whenever possible

3. Poetry

Students will be immersed in a wide variety of poetry throughout the year. They will be encouraged to copy poems they love in their Writer's Notebook and create their own poems. Figurative language will be learned through poetry as well as read aloud picture books and short stories. They will have the chance to take a portion of the year to focus more in depth on poetry and create a collection of their own.

4. Speaking and Listening

Students will have ample opportunities to engage and refine their speaking skills throughout the year with book talks, presentations, classroom discussions, and poetry recitation. Whenever a student is presenting, the other students are being coached and assessed on how to be good listeners. These skills are often underappreciated for the role they play in language learning, but they are key to becoming life long learners and productive citizens in a democracy.

Evaluation:

Term Marks:

- **Writers Workshop (Writing Assignments)** 35%
- **Power/Quick Writes/Spelling & Grammar Quizzes** 10%
- **Speaking & Listening** 10%
- **Reading Zone, Independent Reading Assignments, Articles of the week** 35%
- **Semester Exams** 10%
 Reading Component = 5% Writing Component = 5%

Final Year End Mark:

Semester One	45%
Semester Two	45%
Final Exams (June)	10%

Resources:

1. **Novels:** Novels are self-selected by students and monitored by the teacher. I have an extensive personal classroom library that students are encouraged to borrow from. **Please help me get these books back!** Students are also encouraged to take books out of the CCA Library and Cochrane Public Library. They can also read their own books. I will be sending out book orders this year for students and parents that are interested in ordering new books. I will allow electronic reading devices in my classroom, as long as the student uses it appropriately. I will be sending home a letter explaining the books and their use in my personal classroom library, as I also want the books your teen reads to reflect your values at home.
2. **Picture Books, Short Stories, Articles and Poetry** – Read aloud picture books, short stories, articles, and poetry are the common teaching texts.
3. **Skills Packages:** These include booklets of readings for different purposes, reading comprehension activities, writing activities, vocabulary development, grammar, spelling etc.
4. **Dictionaries and Thesauruses:** Various dictionaries and thesaurus are available through online tools and in the classroom for student use.

Supplies:

Students require the following supplies for our LA class: (The underlined items were not on the school supply list in June...my apologies in advance.)

- 3 ringed binder
- 2 duo tangs
- 1 pkg of dividers
- a dollar store composition book
- highlighter
- blue/black pens, ribbon whiteout
- colored pencils, tape, glue, scissors
- one box of large Ziploc bags (this can be no name as well).

Students are required to bring the FAB Five to every language arts class!

FAB Five:

1. Current novel with a bookmark in a ziplock bag
2. Pen or pencil ready to go
3. LA Binder
4. Agenda
5. A smile 😊

I also encourage communication with home. Parents are always welcome to call the school to book a time to meet with me afterschool, if you have questions or concerns OR email me at ldebow@rockyview.ab.ca and we can talk on the phone.

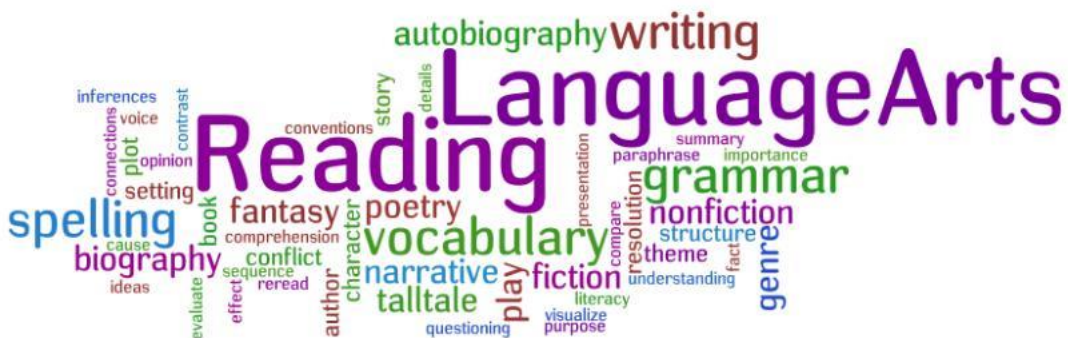
I look forward to teaching your teen this year!

Ms. L DeBow

REMINDER:

Power School allows you to access student grades and attendance twenty-four seven from your computer. This is an important tool to help monitor student progression throughout the entire school year. Power School is closed for approximately two weeks prior to the end of each term to allow teachers to verify and complete final grades. It can be located through the school website. All students are given a username and login identification at the beginning of each school year.

Note: Important due dates, timelines, and access to grades on PowerSchool can be found on our school website: <http://cca.rockyview.ab.ca/>





**CCA
Course Outline
Language Arts 7
2019-2020**

Please sign and return ASAP:

I, _____, the parent/guardian of _____
(please print name) (name of student)

have read and understood the course outline for Language Arts 7.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

LET'S HAVE A GREAT YEAR OF LEARNING!

Contact information:

Ms. DeBow,

Please contact me via: Email: _____

Phone: Cell _____ Work: _____

Best time to call: _____

Secondary Contact Name/Relationship: _____

Secondary Contact Information: _____