



7th 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 analyzing literary and non-literary texts
- Engage with text from different historical periods and a variety of cultures
- Explore and analyze 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 mechanics and vocabulary.

Content Brief

Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
<p data-bbox="184 792 674 857"><u>Breakfast on Mars and 37 Other Delectable Essays</u>, ed. Stern & Wolfe</p> <p data-bbox="113 862 716 1073">Students read and analyze great essays by great authors to learn from example. They establish firm foundations in essay-writing structure that will serve them throughout their academic careers. Students write an original essay based on one studied.</p> <p data-bbox="134 1114 695 1179"><u>Assorted folk tales and short stories from around the world</u></p> <p data-bbox="113 1183 716 1429">Students develop an inquiry question about values and folktales. Then, they read folktales and short stories from around the world to inform their study of their inquiry question. They write an original fairy tale and an intertextual analysis paper answering their inquiry question.</p>	<p data-bbox="884 792 1213 857"><u>The Firefly Letters</u>, Engle</p> <p data-bbox="932 829 1163 857"><u>Caminar</u>, Brown</p> <p data-bbox="743 862 1352 927"><u>The Diary of Anne Frank (play)</u>, Goodrich & Hackett</p> <p data-bbox="743 932 1352 1179">Students read about three different experiences of global conflict. They explore the nuanced definition of freedom. Students write an argumentative paper about the definition of freedom based on the individual and his/her position in time and space.</p> <p data-bbox="806 1219 1289 1252"><u>The House of the Scorpion</u>, Farmer</p> <p data-bbox="764 1256 1331 1390">Students read a classic science-fiction novel that explores ethics and scientific innovation. They'll consider the question, "What does it mean to be human?"</p>	<p data-bbox="1478 792 1892 824"><u>A Wizard of Earthsea</u>, Le Guin</p> <p data-bbox="1394 829 1982 1000">Students explore a classic of the fantasy genre. They examine how literary fiction and symbolism are used by authors to communicate very human issues. Students write a literary analysis paper.</p> <p data-bbox="1562 1040 1808 1073"><u>Speech & Poetry</u></p> <p data-bbox="1394 1078 1982 1248">Students study and participate in a speech tournament. They study a wide variety of classic to contemporary poetry and write their own original collection of works.</p>