



6th Grade Language & Literature

Willows Preparatory School 2020-2021

Subject Aims

- Learn how language is a way to communicate effectively and with purpose
- Write strongly worded essays and analyses
- Organize reports and academic documents
- Discuss narratives in terms of history, meaning, and cultural context
- Encourage open-mindedness and big-picture understanding
- Critique one's work and that of others in a meaningful way
- Learn to support ideas effectively and with purpose

Keys to Class

- **OneNote:** We will be using this platform for classwork, homework, projects, and everything else we do in class.
- **Microsoft Teams:** For those of you in remote learning, this will be how you participate!
- **Discussion:** Participation in class discussions is a must. Speak up!
- **Microsoft Word:** We will spend some time learning how to use these app to make the best out of your projects and essays.
- **Workshop:** We will get in a circle and learn how other people react to our work in a respectful and open environment.
- You are welcome to form opinions on everything you read. Let's talk about it in class!

IB Grading Criteria

Criterion A: Analyzing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ How do you identify and comment on the context, language, structure, technique, and style of a text?○ How can you understand a text's relationship to another text or to a bigger concept like "truth" or "humanity"?○ How well do you identify, explain, and/or analyze how an author's choice to use language?
Criterion B: Organizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ How do you cite references appropriately? How do you use the appropriate tools based on the purpose of that presentation?○ When explaining your points, can you organize them, so they are sensible and easy to follow? How do you apply logic in constructing an argument, position, or idea? Can you use transitions to present your points in a way that signals your reader?○ Do you think about how to use writing tools so that you communicate clearly and effectively?
Criterion C: Producing Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Can you show your imagination at work? How does your creativity show how you personally process the world around you?○ How do you use metaphors or similes? Do you use long or short sentences? Are you thinking about how these things will impact the person reading your writing?○ When you are writing a paper and developing an opinion or a thought, how do you choose examples?
Criterion D: Using Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Do you think about which words would be best based on the purpose? Do you practice using new vocabulary words?○ How well do you demonstrate how different situations call for different <i>tones</i> of writing?○ Are your spelling and punctuation clear and accurate enough that we understand your points?○ Can you communicate using body language, eye contact, tone of voice, and adjusting your volume to present ideas?

Content Brief

Semester 1	Semester 2
<p>ESSAY MECHANICS & ACADEMIC DOCUMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus: Technical and academic writing; how context and purpose drive style, diction, syntax<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Essays○ Instructions○ Reports	<p>THE ELEMENTS OF COMPOSITION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus: Discerning elements of literature, comparative analysis, writing with intent and attention to detail, self-expression<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Poetry by Robert Frost, Marianne Moore, Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, Frank O'Hara, Mary Oliver, Jorge Luis Borges, Dylan Thomas, Maya Angelou○ Fiction by Kurt Vonnegut, Katherine Mansfield, Isaac Asimov, Alice Walker, Ray Bradbury, Gary Soto, Gabriel García Márquez, Edgar Allen Poe, Sherman Alexie
<p>SCIENCE FICTION, ETHICS, AND INNOVATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus: Analyzing texts conceptually, cultural perspectives, the sci-fi genre, setting, ethics of innovation<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Novel: Nancy Farmer's "The House of the Scorpion"	<p>THE LANGUAGE OF SELF-EXPRESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus: Immigration and bilingualism with relation to language, literary analysis, and nuances in first person narratives<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Novel: Pablo Cartaya's "The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora"