



## 8th Grade Language & Literature

Willows Preparatory School 2020-2021

### Subject Aims

- Develop confidence when discussing literature and other forms of media
- Learn how genre can impact impressions when analyzing literature
- Learn to analyze and discuss our own work while also offering critical thought to peers on their works
- Emphasize the importance of supporting ideas with evidence from textual sources as students continue developing their academic voice
- Examine our own point of view and how it can impact the way we receive works of literature

### Keys to Class

- **Microsoft OneNote:** This is where we will do most of our work, in and out of class. All supplemental information can be found in the class notebook, including the weekly vocabulary.
- **Microsoft Word:** This is the program we will use to compose our writings. Students will need to become familiar with all functions of the program to properly format essays.
- **Discussion:** It is essential students participate in discussion, as it shows they are keeping up with reading and is an opportunity to practice sharing analysis and ideas.
- The right attitude is necessary to succeed in class, as it demonstrates a student's ability to give and receive criticism and shows respect to peers.
- Always complete the readings in a timely manner after they are assigned. Students must take ownership of their time management to ensure they are prepared for class each day.

## IB Grading Criteria

<b>Criterion A: Analyzing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How do you identify and comment on the context, language, structure, technique, and style of a text?</li><li>• How can you understand a text's relationship to another text or to a bigger concept like "truth" or "humanity"?</li><li>• How well do you identify, explain, and/or analyze how an author's choice to use language?</li></ul>
<b>Criterion B: Organizing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How do you cite references appropriately? How do you use the appropriate tools based on the purpose of that presentation?</li><li>• 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?</li><li>• Do you think about how to use writing tools so that you communicate clearly and effectively?</li></ul>
<b>Criterion C: Producing Text</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can you show your imagination at work? How does your creativity show how you personally process the world around you?</li><li>• 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?</li><li>• When you are writing a paper and developing an opinion or a thought, how do you choose examples?</li></ul>
<b>Criterion D: Using Language</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do you think about which words would be best based on the purpose? Do you practice using new vocabulary words?</li><li>• How well do you demonstrate how different situations call for different <i>tones</i> of writing?</li><li>• Are your spelling and punctuation clear and accurate enough that we understand your points?</li><li>• Can you communicate using body language, eye contact, tone of voice, and adjusting your volume to present ideas?</li></ul>

## Content Brief

Semester 1	Semester 2
<p><i>SCIENCE FICTION: A STUDY IN IMPORTANCE OF GENRE IN LITERATURE</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Focus:</b> Diving deep into the genre of science fiction to examine the conventions, literary devices, and breadth of the literature considered part of this genre</li></ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. <i>Short Stories</i></li><li>II. <i>Novels: "Station Eleven" by Emily St. John Mandel, "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams, "The Golden Compass" by Philip Pullman, and "The Martian" by Andy Weir (for interdisciplinary unit with science)</i></li></ol>	<p><i>CLASSIC LITERATURE FOCUS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Focus:</b> Discerning elements of literature, critical and comparative analysis, writing with intent and attention to detail while exploring the canon of classic literature</li></ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>I. <i>Short Stories and poetry</i></li><li>II. <i>Novels: "Invisible Man" by Ralph Ellison, "The Outsiders" by S.E. Hinton, "Othello" by William Shakespeare, and "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen</i></li></ol>