

ROSLYN MIDDLE SCHOOL
ENGLISH 7

I. General Goals for English in the Roslyn Middle School

Students will:

- A. Strengthen comprehension and analytical reading skills.
- B. Study literary works chosen for their humanistic values and develop a sense of the dignity and integrity of the human spirit. Confront ethical and moral issues in literature and consider reasonable ways of resolving them.
- C. Utilize a process approach to write pieces which are characterized by logical thinking, creativity, and clarity.
- D. Develop speaking and listening skills.
 - 1. Use appropriate diction and enunciation.
 - 2. Classify what is being heard or spoken.
 - 3. Identify and relate appropriately to audience.
 - 4. Acquire confidence in oral communication.
- E. Increase vocabulary.
- F. Master skills in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling.
- G. Examine and apply research and study skills.
- H. Participate in interdisciplinary and authentic assessment projects.

II. Aims/Objectives for English 7

The English 7 program will:

- A. Develop comprehension and analytical reading skills in both the literature studied in class and the supplementary reading materials.
- B. Examine grade-level literary works critically and aesthetically.
- C. Employ the process of prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing with both expository and creative pieces.
- D. Teach basic grammar and word skills including the parts of speech.
- E. Provide formal and informal situations for public speaking instruction through speeches, reports, and dramatic sketches.

III. Course Content

A. Literature

1. The class will study novels from the following works:

<u>A DAY NO PIGS WOULD DIE</u>	- Robert Newton Peck
<u>CALL OF THE WILD</u>	- JACK LONDON
<u>THE CONTENDER</u>	- ROBERT LIPSYTE
<u>A FAMILY APART</u>	- JOAN NIXON
<u>THE PIGMAN</u>	- PAUL ZINDEL
<u>THE HOBBIT</u>	- J. R.R. TOLKIEN
<u>WAR COMES TO WILLIE FREEMAN</u>	- COLLIER & COLLIER
<u>WEASEL</u>	- CYNTHIA DEFELICE
<u>THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND</u>	- ELIZABETH SPEARE
<u>A BREAK WITH CHARITY</u>	- ANN RINALDI
<u>MY BROTHER SAM IS DEAD</u>	- James & Christopher Collier
<u>THE OUTSIDERS</u>	- S. E. Hinton
<u>SLAKE'S LIMBO</u>	- Felice Holman
<u>NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH</u>	- Avi
<u>THE WESTING GAME</u>	- Ellen Raskin

2. A collection of literary genres includes: short stories, a three-act play, poetry, myths, autobiography, and biography. Also available are the following collections of short selections:

EIGHT PLUS ONE

- Robert Cormier

THE ME YOU SEE

WHERE PATHS MEET.

In addition, students will read **THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK**, a dramatization by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett.

3. Outside reading includes a minimum of four books from a combination of novels, plays, and biographies.

B. Composition

1. Writing selections will include: personal narratives, literary essays, expositions, and poetry. Emphasis will be placed on the four-paragraph essay, the persuasive essay, and creative writing.
2. Each student will maintain a writing folder. Sample work from grades 5 and 6 will be in the folder. At the end of each quarter, the teacher will return all of the student's work with the exception of one sample so that the folder presents a developmental history of the student's growth in writing.

C. Language

Vocabulary work will be based on the contextual study of words taken from the literary works read throughout the year.

IV Expectations / Requirements

- A. Reading and writing on a regular basis
- B. Periodic grammar/usage and vocabulary tests
- C. Book assessments and/or quizzes on literature studied in class and read independently
- D. Knowledge of research skills through orientation visits to the library and exercises in locating information
- E. Daily and long-range homework assignments
- F. Interdisciplinary and authentic assessment projects
- G. Practice for ELA Assessment tests.

V. Evaluation Systems

- A. Individual grades on essays, creative pieces, and other written assignments
- B. Announced and unannounced quizzes and tests
- C. Oral and/or written reports
- D. Participation in class discussions
- E. Portfolio assessments