

ROSLYN MIDDLE SCHOOL
ENGLISH 8

I. General Goals for English in the 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 approaching them.
- C. Utilize a process approach to writing 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 8

The English 8 program will:

- A. Refine further the skills of comprehension and analytical reading.
- B. Examine grade-level literary works critically and aesthetically.
- C. Employ further the process of pre-printing, drafting, revising, and editing both expository and creative pieces.

III. Content

A. Literature

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

OF MICE AND MEN

- John Steinbeck

THE GIVER

- Lois Lowry

OUT OF THE DUST

- Karen Hesse

NIGHT

- Elie Weisel

LOST IN YONKERS

- Neil Simon

FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN

- Mitch Albom

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

- William Shakespeare

- 2. A collection of varied literary genres includes: short stories, poetry, nonfiction, and drama.
- 3. Outside reading will include a minimum of four books from a combination of novels, plays, and biographies.

- B. Composition
 - 1. Writing selections will include personal narratives, exposition, and description. Emphasis will be placed on the multi-paragraph essay.

- C. Language
 - 1. Specific grammar topics as well as points related to individual student writing will be addressed.
 - 2. Vocabulary work will be based on the contextual study of words taken from the literary works read throughout the year.

IV. Expectations/Requirements

- A. 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. Unit tests
- E. Application of research skills in correspondence to literature and interdisciplinary projects
- F. Daily and long range homework assignments
- G. Authentic assessment projects
- H. Practice in 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