**English Language Arts 8**

Course Outline 2014-2015

Mr. Spencer

**E-mail**: darren.spencer@blackgold.ca

***Website****:* <https://sites.google.com/a/gshare.blackgold.ca/mr-spencer-s-home/>

*Linked to school staff page at* [www.devonrms.ca](http://www.devonrms.ca)

**Rationale:** Language is the basis of all communication and the primary instrument of thought. Composed of interrelated and rule-governed symbol systems, language is a social and uniquely human means of exploring and communicating meaning. As well as being a defining feature of culture, language is an unmistakable mark of personal identity and is essential for forming interpersonal relationships, extending experiences, reflecting on thought and action, and contributing to society.

**In this course** we will explore in a variety of ways the six language arts: reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and representing. I encourage students to invest their experience, interest, and opinions into our exploration and enjoy the rewards it will bring.

The course will be divided into the following 10 Units:

## The Mechanics of Written Texts (September 4 weeks)

* Review and expand on our knowledge and practice of grammar, spelling, word usage, and punctuation.
* Review and develop drafting, editing and revising strategies to improve written text.
* Develop and use peer/self-assessment rubrics and exemplars

## Elements of Fiction (October-November 5 weeks)

* Explore and respond to a variety of short stories
* Improve reading comprehension by using a variety of strategies and clues to enhance understanding
* Write original fiction, revise point of view, and apply styles to personal narratives

## Paragraphs and Position Texts (November- December 4 weeks)

* Explore and respond to a variety of paragraph styles over a broad spectrum of topics.
* Explore examples of position essays and persuasive essays.
* Research, write and revise their original paragraphs and a personal response essays.

## Novel Study- I am David (December – January 6 Weeks)

* Extend social studies themes in an exploration of a medieval novel.
* Review and expand on our understanding of the structure of a novel.
* Use research techniques to present historical information in response to the text.

## Poetry and Song (January - February 4 weeks)

* Explore and respond to various poetic forms and conventions.
* Create and revise a portfolio of original poetry.

## Media Literacy (February – March 4 weeks)

* Explore technique and respond to various examples of media genres including advertisements, film, cartoons, graffiti, and theatre.

## Research Writing and Presentation (April 4 weeks)

* Identify types and purposes of research writing
* Use correct essay format
* Use peer and self-editing skills to revise written work
* Write and perform an original one act play based on research

## Novel study- *The Giver/Winners* (May-June 6 weeks)

* Review and expand on our understanding of the structure of a novel.
* Read and respond to a teacher selected novel.

## Review and Exam preparation (June 1 week)

***Note:*** *Dates for the above units are general guidelines and may vary according to student needs and progress.*

Course Materials:

* Three ring binder with loose leaf paper
* Writing instruments (dark blue or black pen and pencil **only**).
* Coloured pencil crayons
* Scissors
* Glue stick
* Duotang(to be used during the novel study)
* Various project specific materials throughout the year
* USB flash drive (portable storage device)

Course Resources:

* Textbook – *Sight Lines 8*
* *Winners*
* *The Giver*
* *I am David*
* Selected readings provided by Mr. Spencer throughout the school year.
* Mr. Spencer’s website<https://sites.google.com/a/gshare.blackgold.ca/mr-spencer-s-home/>

Course Evaluation:

Course Work Grades:

 Assignments 70%

 ***Assignment Curriculum Codes:***

 Reading = **R** Writing = **W** Listening = **L**

 Viewing = **V** Speaking = **S** Representing = **REP**

Quizzes & Exams 30%

Final Grade:

Course Work 70%

 Mid Term 10%

 Final Exam 20%

Homework & Missed assignments:

Students who require assistance, have questions or want extra help are encouraged to see me as soon as the need arises. Do not wait until the day of a quiz or test, or the beginning of class when an assignment is due to seek help.

When a student is absent, **it is his/her responsibility on return to school to check with the teacher to find out what work was missed.**

I am happy to accommodate absences for extra-curricular activities or family vacations provided students discuss these with me in advance.

**All assignments MUST be completed.**



All assignments are due within 48 hours of your return to class from an excused absence.

Late assignments for which prior arrangements have not been made may be assessed with a reasonable grade penalty. All late assignments must be accompanied by a written explanation of why the work was not submitted on time (Overdue and NHI forms).

Missed quizzes and tests must be made up immediately after returning from an excused absence.

Hand- In Format

It is important to include the following on your assignments:

* Your Name
* Your Class and Subject
* The Date

Most writing assignments should be typed. If you wish to handwrite a given writing assignment, check with your teacher well in advance of the due date.

|  |
| --- |
| **Typed** |
| * Font Size 12

A word about plagiarism:It is expected that all students will submit their own work produced from their own efforts.  Students must make appropriate efforts to cite sources.   Submission of work that has been copied from other students or any resource will be dealt with as a serious breach of conduct.* Arial or Times New Roman
* Double Spaced
* Name in Header
 |

