

# Long-Range Plans

Teacher: Heather Lyons  
Subject: English Language Arts 8  
Year: 2020–2021

## Full-Year Lessons

### Reading–

- **First Chapter Fridays:** Each Friday, I chose a novel from a different genre or author and read the first chapter to the class. The students create sketchnotes using both text and images that connect to the book, while also identifying the genre. This activity introduces the students to new genres and authors, as well as providing ideas for novels they can read during the year.

Learner Outcomes: 23A, 33A

### Writing –

- **Quick Writes:** Each week, I provide a writing prompt (image, poem, quote, etc) and the students complete a quick write. As this is a timed activity, it encourages students to quickly develop an idea and get their ideas down on paper for a rough draft. Learner Outcomes: 23C

### Spelling –

- **Individualized Spelling Program:** During the first month of school, the students complete the Morrison- McCall Spelling assessment to provide a general spelling level for each student. At the beginning of the program, the students receive a spelling list that matches their ability level. Throughout the month, students will choose words from the list and complete spelling activities that introduce strategies and opportunities to practice those skills. Once per month, the students can challenge the word list at their level. If they achieve an advancing level, they will move onto the next list, allowing them to move up the grade levels at their own pace. Learner Outcomes: 42B

### Book Clubs

- **Independent Novel Studies:** Each term the students will read novels of their choice and complete a project of their choosing or one directed by the teacher. These projects will be shared with the class. Learner Outcomes: 11A, 12A, 21B, 24A, 41A, 41B, 41C, 42A, 42B, 42C, 43A
- **Book Discussions:** Each week, during a novel study, the students will answer questions about making connections, constructing meaning, analyzing writer's craft or identifying literary techniques and elements. These discussions will be recorded and shared through Flipgrid. Learner Outcomes: 11A, 11B, 21A, 22C, 23A, 23B, 43A, 43B, 51A, 52A

## September

### Theme: Getting To Know Me

**Preliminary Assessments:** Students will complete the Best Part of Me assignment, as well as a Reading Comprehension, Spelling and Vocabulary assessment. This will provide a baseline for their skill level at the beginning of the year.

**Reading:** Students will complete a Reading Inventory and a book tasting in order to choose a novel for their independent novel study. Students will set reading goals for this term.

**Writing:** Students will be introduced to the writing process and practice using all five steps. Students will review and write a paragraph for all four types of writing (descriptive, narrative, informative and persuasive). The students will choose one of the four types to submit for assessment.

**Assessment:** Reading Goals: 12A

Genre Poster and Presentation: 23A, 42A, 43A

Genre Quiz: 23A

Best Part of Me: 41B, 41C

## October

### Theme: Short Stories and Character Analysis

**Reading:** Students will review the literary elements of a short story and focus on character. Students will need to use inference skills in order to develop a strong image of a character.

**Writing:** Students will write an analysis, based on evidence from the text, as well as inferences that they make about the character. The students will submit their best analysis for assessment.

**Grammar:** Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives and Adverbs

**Assessment:** Literary Elements Quiz: 23B

Character Analysis: 22A, 22B

Short Story Annotations: 21A

Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives and Adverbs Quiz: 42A

# November

## **Theme: Mystery**

**Reading:** Students will complete activities and characterization activities for a mystery novel, which will be shared as a class read aloud.

**Writing:** Students will be introduced to the genre of mystery and the important components. Using their understanding of both short story and mystery genres, students will write a mystery and share it with the Grade 7's..

**Grammar:** Sentences- Simple, Compound, Complex, Run-On

**Assessment:** Mystery Vocabulary Quiz: 23A

Class Novel Activities: 22C, 23B

Mystery Short Story: 21E, 24B, 41B, 41C, 41D

Simple, Compound, Complex, Run-On Sentences Quiz: 42A

First Chapter Fridays: 23A, 31

# December

## **Theme: Poetry**

**Reading:** Students will read various forms of poetry and use their analysis skills to analyze the poems.

**Writing:** Students will write a Blackout Poem and perform in a Poetry Slam.

**Grammar:** Capitalization and End Punctuation

**Assessment:** Figurative Language Vocabulary Quiz: 23B

Poetry Analysis: 22A

Blackout Poem: 22C, 23A, 23C

Poetry Slam Performance: 43A, 43B

Capitalization and End Punctuation: 42C

# January

## **Theme: Investigative Journalism**

**Reading:** Each day students will read the Calgary Herald to look at writer's craft and the structure of newspaper articles.

**Writing:** Students will observe activities and events in their own lives and write four different newspaper articles. The students will choose the best article and submit for assessment. The newspaper articles will be posted in the classroom.

**Grammar:** Commas

**Assessment:** Newspaper Article: 31, 32, 33A, 41B, 41B,  
Commas Quiz: 42C

# February

## **Theme: Investigative Journalism Continued**

**Reading:** Each day students will watch various newscasts and focus on the writer's craft and production elements.

**Writing:** Students will choose a topic, research information and write a newscast. Students will record and edit their newscasts and then present the final product to the class.

**Grammar:** Apostrophes

**Assessment:** Newscast: 11B, 22C, 23C, 43A  
Apostrophes Quiz: 42B

# March

## **Theme: Refugee – Class Novel Study**

**Reading:** Students will read in small groups and listen to the audio book of Refugee.

**Writing:** Students will choose one of the main characters and create a journal including a map, vocabulary terms, character sketch and journal as they read the novel.

**Grammar:** Colons

**Assessment:** Backpack Activity: 11A  
Refugee Journal: 21D, 22A  
Refugee Visual Essay: 22A  
Colons Quiz: 42C

First Chapter Fridays - 23A, 31

# April

## **Theme: Refugee Continued**

**Reading:** Students will read in small groups and listen to the audio book of Refugee.

**Writing:** Students will choose one of the main characters and create a journal including a map, vocabulary terms, character sketch and journal as they read the novel.

**Grammar:** Semicolons

**Assessment:** Backpack Activity: 11A

Refugee Journal: 22A

Refugee Visual Essay: 22A

Semicolons Quiz; 42C

First Chapter Fridays - 23A, 31

# May

## **Theme: Passion Project**

**Reading:** Non-fiction reading strategies and media literacy strategies will be taught to the students, so they are able to research information for their passion project.

Students will read non-fiction texts to gather information for their project.

**Writing:** Using the information that the students collect, they will write a research paper based on a driving question. The information from the paper will be shared with their classmates through a speech, which will also incorporate a visual. Students will be asked to reflect on their own and other's work.

**Grammar:** Me and I

**Assessment:** Research Paper: 21C, 24B, 31, 33A, 33B, 34

Me and I Quiz: 42A

# June

**Theme: Passion Project continued**

**Reading:** Non-fiction reading strategies and media literacy strategies will be taught to the students, so they are able to research information for their Passion Project. Students will read non-fiction texts to gather information for their project.

**Writing:** Using the information that the students collect, they will write a research paper based on a driving question. The information from the paper will be shared with their classmates through a speech, which will also incorporate a visual. Students will be asked to reflect on their own and other's work.

**Grammar:** Review

**Assessment:** Research Paper: 24B, 31, 32, 33A, 33B, 34

Visual: 24A

Presentation: 41A, 43A, 43B

First Chapter Fridays: 23A, 31

Grammar Review: 42A