

## English Language Arts - Grade 9

Teacher: Ms. Ann Salter Jarrett

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This semester we will be analysing a variety of literary and non-literary texts. Our analysis will be centered around the five big ideas for the course:

1. Language and story can be a source of creativity and joy.
2. Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.
3. People understand text differently depending on their worldviews and perspectives.
4. Texts are socially, culturally, and historically constructed.
5. Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.

### Course Overview

**Unit 1:** The Craft - How do writers build suspenseful, engaging stories - what techniques can authors use to build tension, spark curiosity and ultimately entertain readers?

**Unit 2:** *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* - by Sherman Alexie - What makes us who we are? How does background, culture, context shape how we view the world and how others view us? How can novels teach us about other peoples' unique experiences and foster empathy?

**Unit 3:** Advertising - How does advertising impact our views and our lives? What techniques do advertisers use to promote their products? How can we view media texts critically? Comparative analysis of advertising (print, digital, video, social media)

**Unit 4:** *Feed* by MT Anderson - How is technology impacting our lives and social interactions? How can we determine truth in media texts?

**Unit 5:** Drama study (time permitting) - *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller - What parallels can we draw between the Salem Witch trials and similar trends in our current context?

## **Assessment**

Students will complete both formative and summative assessments. Formative assessments include activities, homework tasks, and informal projects that are done every day in class to learn material and practice skills. Students will receive formative feedback from the teacher or classmates, either verbal or in writing. The purpose of the formative assessments is to learn, and for me to know where the students are in their learning so that I may meet their needs.

At the end of a learning cycle or unit, students will complete one or more summative assessments. These are larger projects, such as essays, papers, and presentations, or others, that demonstrate what the student has learned in the unit. Students will complete one or two summative assessments each unit.

There will be a final exam in January 2023.

## **Supplies required**

- Notebook for personal writing, drafting and journaling
- Binder
- Writing utensils, including highlighters