



The Bishop Strachan School

Course Outline

Course name	English
Grade level	Grade 7
Ministry code	ENG07
Teachers	Connie Green (ext. 5632) cgreen@bss.on.ca Eden Merritt (ext. 5587) emerritt@bss.on.ca
Course Description	<p>In this required Grade 7 course students will encounter exceptional and interesting fiction, thought-provoking non-fiction, critical thinking and creative writing. The course begins with a study of an abridged version of Homer's <i>Odyssey</i>. This unit, with its focus on the elements of a classical journey, creates the framework for the course. Students have the opportunity to become the author of their own piece of short fiction. In addition, the course includes a close look at notable authors, such as Anne Frank, Charles Dickens, Sharon Creech and Geoffrey Trease. We will be appreciating poetry through analysis, oral presentations and creative writing. English 7 focuses on the development of skills that are important in written, oral, and visual communication. Students will also have the chance to meet an author of young adult fiction. Appropriate integration with other disciplines, particularly History, will be incorporated throughout the year.</p>
Course Essential Question	How does our study of literature allow us to experience various and distinct journeys?
Ministry of Education Overall Expectations	<p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• communicate ideas and information for a variety of purposes (to outline an argument, to report on observations and research) and to specific audiences, using forms appropriate for their purpose and topic (e.g., write an email from a young adult to another young adult and then write a formal letter from the same young adult to an adult on the same topic)• use writing for various purposes and in a range of contexts, including school work (e.g., to make point-form notes from a text, to jot down personal impressions)• organize information to develop a central idea, using well-linked and well-developed paragraphs;• use a variety of sentence types and sentence structures, and sentences of varying length;• produce pieces of writing using a variety of forms (e.g., descriptive, narrative, and expository compositions), techniques and resources appropriate to the form and purpose, and materials from other media (e.g., diagrams, illustrations)• produce media texts using writing and materials from other media (e.g., a poster publicizing a play; a multi-media presentation on an assigned topic)• revise and edit work, focusing on content and elements of style (e.g., diction), independently and in collaboration with others• proofread and correct final drafts, focusing on grammar, punctuation, spelling, and conventions of style• use and spell correctly the vocabulary appropriate for this grade level

- use correctly the conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.) specified for this grade level.

Reading

- read a variety of fiction and non-fiction materials (e.g., novels, short stories, poetry, reports, articles) for different purposes;
- read aloud, showing understanding of the material and awareness of the audience
- read independently, selecting appropriate reading strategies
- explain interpretation of a written work, supporting it with evidence from the work and from knowledge and experience
- decide on a specific purpose for reading, and select the material that is needed from a variety of appropriate sources
- understand the vocabulary and language structures appropriate for this grade level
- use conventions of written materials to help understand and use the materials

Oral and Visual Communication

- use instructions and explanations to plan and organize work;
- ask questions and discuss different aspects of ideas in order to clarify thinking;
- listen to and communicate related ideas, and narrate real and fictional events in a sequence;
- express and respond to a range of ideas and opinions concisely, clearly, and appropriately;
- contribute and work constructively in groups;
- demonstrate the ability to concentrate by identifying main points and staying on topic;
- identify various types of media works and a variety of the techniques used in them;
- analyze and interpret media works; create a variety of media works;
- use the conventions (e.g., sentence structure) of oral language, and of the various media, that are appropriate to the grade.

All students in grade 7 & 8 have the opportunity to complete a business credit BBT10 in which students will use information and communication technology. In this English course, students will complete some of the expectations in an integrated and relevant way.

Units of study

- 1) The journey in legend: Homer’s *Odyssey* (Puffin Classic)
- 2) Historical non-fiction: *The Diary of Anne Frank*
- 3) A dramatic journey through Elizabethan England: *Cue For Treason*
- 4) Poetry appreciation
- 5) Independent reading and film viewing
- 6) A modern dramatic adaptation of Dickens’ *Great Expectations*
- 7) Journey to understanding: Sharon Creech’s *Walk Two Moons*

Course Evaluation

- Term Evaluation (Sept.-April) 85%**
- *The Odyssey* Small Assignment: September
 - *The Odyssey* Summary Exercise and Creative Writing: October

- *The Diary of Anne Frank* oral presentation: October
- *Cue For Treason* Test: November
- *Cue For Treason* Assignment: November
- *Cue For Treason* Paragraph: November/December
- Poetry Test and Collection: January
- Original Short Story: late January
- Victorian Era Inquiry Project: February
- *Great Expectations* Dramatization: April
- *Great Expectations* Test: early May
- Independent Reading Responses and Journals: January, late March
- Periodic Language and Content Small Assignments: throughout the year

Summative Evaluation 15%

- Written Evaluation: May - June

Checklists, notes or comments, rubrics, and conferences provide students with numerous formative assessments by the teacher. Self-assessment and peer feedback are also part of the evaluation process. A folder of student work is maintained with formative and graded pieces: tests, independent and group projects, presentations, drafts, polished formal paragraphs and creative writing may be used.

Students will be evaluated based on the categories of Knowledge/ Understanding, Thinking/ Inquiry, Communication, and Application. Students will also be assessed on their Learning Skills. The final mark will be based on the most consistent level of achievement with special consideration given to the most recent evidence of achievement. The BSS Late Work Policy is in effect.

Course evaluation is subject to change, and on occasion, may be shared across selected course disciplines.