



8th Grade English Syllabus

2023 - 2024

Kingdom International School

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Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." James 1: 2-4

Course Description

English 8 is a pre-AP course that will help you develop and refine your skills in critical thinking, close reading, writing in various genres, and doing research. Over the course of this class program, you will read and analyze a wide range of texts in genres including poetry, novels, plays, biographies, nonfiction narratives, speeches, and films. You will also learn to write in forms including essays, personal narratives, argumentative texts such as editorials, and research papers.

In units built around the theme "Challenges," you will:

- Read work by Ray Bradbury and Walt Whitman, an essay about Civil War heroes, narratives about the Holocaust, and Elie Wiesel's Nobel Prize acceptance speech.

- Learn about the hero archetype and hero's journey narratives.
- Write narrative, explanatory, argumentative, and other texts.
- Research an issue in current events and then create a multimedia presentation.
- Read scenes from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, then watch the scenes on film and analyze how the adaptation differs from the source.

Grading Policy

- 40%: Lesson quizzes
- 60%: Final exam

Course Pacing Guide

Weeks 1-8

- Unit 1: The Challenges of Heroism

Weeks 9-17

- Unit 2: The Challenges of Utopia

Weeks 18-26

- Unit 3: The Challenge to Make a Difference

Weeks 27- 36

- Unit 4: The Challenge of Comedy