ENGLISH

YEAR 8 ENGLISH PROGRAM

YEAR 8: ENGLISH PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Staff Contact Details

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Year Overview

Year 7 students at Uplift Education will cover seven modules over the course of the year under the Area of Study: Connection. As tutors, we aim to prepare Year 8 students for the language and literacy requirements in alignment with the Australian Curriculum at each student's respective school. Students will examine various types and genres of literature, especially focusing on classic texts from Shakespeare and other celebrated poets and authors. Students will practise composing a range of imaginative, informative and persuasive texts including analytical and comparative essays, reflections, persuasive letters and multimodal presentations.

By the end of Term 1 at Uplift Education, students will be able to draw connections between texts and contemporary world issues and concerns. By Term 2, they will gain an appreciation for how dramatic techniques are used to create complex characters, events, and themes through the introductory study of Shakespeare. They will reflect on how plays written over four centuries ago can still powerfully resonate with modern audiences and human society. By Term 3, students will learn to analyse how media and digital texts are composed to communicate purpose, context, and ideas. By the end of Term 4, students will complete their Year 8 education with a close study of genre specific novels and poetry in order to critically evaluate, analyse, and utilise the language and techniques learned over the course of the year to solidify their understanding of English.

Learning Beyond The Classroom

Unit Sequence

Unit 1: Dystopia and Decary

This module will allow students to closely study texts exploring various dystopian worlds and analyse how composers construct futuristic settings, characters, events, and issues using language and form. Students will draw connections between the texts and contemporary world issues and concerns. Tutors focus on themes of:

- Surveillance
- Dehumanisation
- Technology
- Conformity

Unit 2: Protecting Our World

Students within this module will engage with a range of texts to explore issues facing the environment. They will look at sustainable practices that seek to protect the natural world, including resource management, waste reduction, recycling and conservation. Students will develop skills in analysing the conventions of persuasive and visual texts over the course of this unit, and will critically reflect on how texts communicate philosophies of progress, consequence, and humanity's connection to the environment.

Unit 3: Introducing Shakespeare

Students within this module will be introduced William Shakespeare as a canonised composer, his context, work, and Shakespearean theatre. They will experience play reading, performance, and writing to gain an appreciation for how dramatic techniques are used to create complex characters, events, and themes. Students will reflect on how plays written over four centuries ago can still powerfully resonate with modern audiences and human society. Students will compare plays with modern adaptations to explore how intertextuality can enhance the audience's understanding and appreciation of classic texts.

Unit 4: Stereotypes and the Media

Students will read and view a range of media texts that portray groups and individuals in slanted or stereotypical ways. Students will practice analysing visual and written texts and reflect on how these texts achieve their purposes and how effective they are as a means of communication. Students will criticise the perpetuation of stereotypes and appreciate the diversity of the wider world.

Unit 5: Power and Conflict

Students will closely study texts that deal with the concept of power and conflict. They will explore how conflicts affect the lived experiences of groups and individuals from different historical, social and cultural contexts. They will examine how effective composers and authors control and use a variety of visual and language techniques to enhance layers of meaning and express ideas that may reflect or challenge the commonly held values of their time.

Unit 6: The Spirit of Adventure in Poetry

Students will explore poetic techniques through various famous adventure poems from different historical, social, and cultural contexts, especially focusing on the techniques of imagery, rhythm and rhyme in conveying the spirit of adventure. Tutors should focus on themes of:

- Exploration
- Discovery
- Decision-making
- Nature and the world

Unit 7: Genre Study – Gothic

Students will engage deeply in the genre study of gothic or historical fiction texts, exploring the ways genre conventions create engaging and suspenseful tales and characters. They will be introduced to the metonymy of the gothic or historical fiction genre, such as haunted houses, the supernatural, and the response of the audience in its purpose. Tutors focus on the ideas of:

- Character and setting development
- Archetypes
- Effectiveness of literary, filmic, and/or dramatic devices in shaping purpose

Student Work Portfolios and Reports

For Year 7-10 students at Uplift Education, tutors keep a folder for each student in which works they have produced and submitted are stored. These works will be marked and assessed by the tutors and given to parents along with their semester reports. These reports are given at the end of both semesters in the school year. Tutors will assess the students' progress against a criteria sheet of learning outcomes. Parents at this time will also have the opportunity to organise a parent-teacher interview with their child's tutor.

Assessment

Students will be required to submit either an analytical or creative piece at the end of each unit to monitor progress and set achievable medium-term goals. These assessments are compulsory and will be placed in the Student Work Portfolios as evidence of teaching and learning. Students will receive a mark determined by tutors and, in the form of the provided marking criteria, will be given appropriate feedback.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Uplift Education has a zero-tolerance plagiarism policy. In the case that plagiarism is found in a student's work, Uplift Tutors may penalise students with a reduction of marks, or in more serious cases, Uplift Education reserves the right to deny service to the student. Uplift Education defines plagiarism in the forms of:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to an original piece of work without acknowledgement or credit, or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: changing words and/or phrases while retaining the original structure and/or information without acknowledgement or credit.