



CROCUS PLAINS REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT GUIDE

ELA20F English Language Arts 2025-26, Semester 1

Teacher's Name: Ms. Fines

Contact Information: fines.cheryl@bsd.ca or on Teams

Required Supplies and Resources:

Every student must bring pens, sticky notes/tabs (optional) and the book they are reading every day. Get these materials out, as well as your in-class folder and put away your silenced phone, as soon as you come into the room. Binders are stored off-desk, in the designated area. Note that pens will be used for all assessment pieces, so be sure to have a supply of dark blue or black pens available.

Texts:

You will be reading a wide variety of texts in this course – some aesthetic, some pragmatic. You will be given reading time in class, but it is expected that students will use at-home time to complete their assigned readings, particularly when we are reading novels.

Depending on which section you're in, core texts may include:

- *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak
- *Darius the Great is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram
- *Noggin* by John Corey Whaley
- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- Various other novels



Reading Forms:

We may read/study: novels, short stories, editorials, essays, speeches, memoirs, articles, podcasts, photographs, poetry, advertisements, feature films, short films, other forms.

Writing Forms:

You will be writing prolifically in this course. Some forms of writing you may encounter are: original short fiction, response to text, memoir, review, opinion piece, one pager, poetry, MLA essay. Other forms may be added.

Missed Work:

Students are responsible for keeping up / catching up on their coursework. Absences for ANY reason require the student to independently catch up. Reading and many of the writing projects can be completed at home. Some assessments are in-class only.

Deadlines:

Every project will have a deadline. Please manage your time so that you are able to meet deadlines in all classes.

Some projects simply must be done according to the planned schedule. These would generally be performance-based projects and event-related projects (e.g., gallery walk). Since the scheduled event will be finished whether or not you are present, there will be no opportunity to make up for that mark. Any related written work will be marked, but performance aspects will not. Performance elements of the rubric will be scored zero, unless your absence is parent-excused.

Students not meeting the scheduled deadline for any given assignment will have their work marked as time allows. There might be significant delays, depending on the teacher's workload at that time. Late submissions are typically not eligible for re-writing opportunities. Generally speaking, work that is handed in late is marked according to the rubric alone; additional comments are not provided, beyond the rubric scoring.

There will be a final date by which all work must be submitted; that will be shared in class.

Plagiarism and Use of AI:

Plagiarism is using the ideas or words of another but representing them as your own. It is a serious academic offense. On occasions in which you may include someone else's words or ideas (e.g., quotes in a literary essay), you must cite your sources, both in-text and in your Works Cited page. No assignment in this course will require or permit use of artificial intelligence (e.g., Chat GPT). Therefore, *any* use of AI for this course would automatically be considered plagiarism / cheating.

Expectations in Ms. Fines' classroom

1. In Ms. Fines's classroom, the first rule is **respect**; everyone is expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner toward all others. Teachers have a legal and moral obligation to maintain harassment-free environments. I will uphold the basic principles of respect, dignity and safety for all in this classroom. Toward that end, any speech, nonverbal communication, written, visually represented or otherwise shared ideas that violate these principles will not be tolerated, whether part of a formal assignment or not. Assignments containing inappropriate content will be graded zero, and the student will have a time-limited opportunity to rewrite under supervision and resubmit.
2. The second rule is simple: **students are to do what is expected**. That sounds obvious, but it truly does encompass everything. Some *examples* of what students are expected to do include:
 - a Check Teams regularly
 - b Follow all Crocus rules including the **no scent** policy
 - c No phones, headphones, earbuds allowed; they cannot be accessible to the student at all during class time
 - d Catch up if you miss classes
 - e Arrive on time and ready to learn; get out what you need, unprompted
 - f No backpacks whatsoever
 - g No hats to be worn
 - h Binders must be left in the designated area
 - i Be responsible for your own learning
 - j Sign in/out if leaving the room during permitted times
 - k Sign in if entering class late
 - l No packing up early – two minutes before the bell is plenty