

SWAN VALLEY REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

Grade 12 Comprehensive English

ELA 40SC | Course Syllabus | 2026-2027

INSTRUCTOR	K. Harness	EMAIL	kharness@svsd.ca
PHONE	204-734-4511 ext. 2200	FOCUS	50% pragmatic / 50% aesthetic

Course at a Glance

This course develops confident, thoughtful communicators through a balanced study of fiction and non-fiction. Students read, write, view, listen, speak, and represent while exploring how language shapes identity, culture, relationships, and participation in society.

COURSE GOAL

Understand and appreciate diverse texts; communicate clearly and creatively; think critically; solve problems; collaborate respectfully; and make informed choices in school, community, and life.

What We Will Study

- Multi-genre texts: short stories, folk tales, fables, parables, poetry, memoirs, articles, advertising, photographs, art, posters, e-cards, lyrics, and monologues
- Novel study: Lord of the Flies, Cry, the Beloved Country, or Killers of the Flower Moon
- Grammar and language study through Grammar Mastery
- Provincial examination preparation: reading, discussion, short responses, and organized writing

Essential Learning Outcomes

OUTCOME	STUDENTS WILL...
Explore	Develop and reshape ideas, feelings, experiences, and perspectives.
Comprehend & Respond	Use strategies to interpret, analyze, evaluate, and create oral, print, visual, and multimodal texts.
Manage Information	Locate, assess, synthesize, organize, and integrate information for a clear purpose and audience.
Communicate	Draft, revise, edit, and present with clarity, coherence, appropriate conventions, and artistry.
Build Community	Listen actively, collaborate respectfully, consider diverse viewpoints, and use inclusive language.

Assessment & Evaluation

Final grades are based on summative evidence of learning gathered over time from observations, conversations, and student products. Formative practice—including homework, reading preparation, grammar practice, and drafts—supports learning and feedback but does not directly determine the final grade.

CATEGORY	WEIGHT	EXAMPLES
Rich Performance Tasks	30%	Creative writing, presentations, visual or multimodal representations
Demonstrations	20%	Quizzes, short responses, journals, oral reading, and brief in-class demonstrations
Organized Writing	20%	Essays, paragraphs, analysis, comparison, and expository writing
Tests	10%	Unit tests and other summative testing
Provincial Exam	20%	Compulsory end-of-semester process examination

All summative assessments must be completed to earn the course credit. At least 80% of work used for summative assessment must be completed in the teacher's presence, unless alternative arrangements are approved by the teacher and administration. Late assignments may be marked as only collected, at teacher discretion.

Academic Honesty & Responsible AI

Submitted evidence must reflect the student's own understanding and effort. Cheating, plagiarism, false claims about group contributions, and unauthorized materials are not acceptable. AI may be used only when the teacher permits it and must support—not replace—independent thinking. Students must verify information, acknowledge sources or AI assistance as directed, and be able to explain and demonstrate their learning.

Concerns will be addressed with the student, documented, and communicated to parents/guardians in consultation with administration. The student may be required to demonstrate the learning again in an honest manner; Code of Conduct consequences may also apply.

Learning Responsibilities

STUDENTS	TEACHER
Participate actively and respectfully	Clarify outcomes, criteria, and expectations
Complete assigned reading and practice	Provide instruction, examples, and timely feedback
Monitor PowerSchool and meet timelines	Use varied and equitable evidence of learning
Ask for help early and arrange missed work	Communicate progress and concerns
Bring required materials and use class time well	Plan appropriate support for individual learning needs

Attendance & Missed Learning

Regular attendance matters. A parent/guardian should verify an absence before it occurs or within two school days. Students are responsible for obtaining and completing missed notes, readings, and assignments. Extensions or rewrites are determined by the teacher and administration. Attendance is taken within the first ten minutes; unexplained absences are recorded as truancy and repeated concerns follow SVRSS intervention procedures.

Devices & Digital Citizenship

PERSONAL DEVICES

Grade 9-12 students may not use cell phones or personal devices during class time unless the teacher directs their use for an educational activity. School-issued ICT devices are the first option. Devices should be silent and stored in the designated classroom location; headphones and earbuds must be removed unless authorized. Medical or diverse-learning exceptions require a Student Specific Plan.

Students must use technology safely, ethically, respectfully, and only for positive educational purposes. SVSD is not responsible for loss, theft, or physical/data damage to personal devices.

Provincial Examination

The compulsory Grade 12 provincial English examination accounts for 20% of the final course grade. It is a process examination that may include reading, thematic group discussion, short-answer responses, and a longer organized response. A final course grade of 50% is required to earn the credit.

Materials & Communication

- Bring pens/pencils, paper or binder materials, assigned texts, and any requested school device.
- Course information, due dates, and progress will be communicated through class instruction and PowerSchool.
- Questions or concerns are welcome: kharness@svsd.ca | 204-734-4511 ext. 2200.

Important Dates:

Final day to submit assignments: Thursday January 28, 2027

Provincial Exam Dates: Tuesday January 12-Friday January 15