

## GRADE 12

# Literary Focus English

---

*ELA 40S LITERARY | COURSE SYLLABUS*

K. Harness

Room 200

[kharness@svsd.ca](mailto:kharness@svsd.ca)

734-4511 • ext. 2200

**COURSE AT A GLANCE**

**A literature-rich course designed to deepen students' engagement with stories, language, culture, ideas, and the human experience. Students respond critically and creatively through reading, writing, viewing, representing, speaking, and listening.**

**What makes this course literary?**

The Literary Focus emphasizes the aesthetic uses of language: language that enlightens, develops empathy, reflects culture, expresses experience, and gives enjoyment. The course is approximately **70% aesthetic and 30% pragmatic** in emphasis.

**Course experiences**

- A play (for example, *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller)
- Short stories, folk tales, fables, parables, memoirs, and varied points of view
- Class and independent novel studies
- Poetry, film, and other media texts
- Creative, expository, persuasive, memoir, comparative, and analytical writing
- MLA and APA documentation practice
- Provincial examination preparation

## How you will learn

| READ<br>Read                    | WRITE<br>Write                                                                                             | VIEW<br>View | CREATE<br>Represent | SPEAK<br>Speak | HEAR<br>Listen |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Five learning priorities</b> |                                                                                                            |              |                     |                |                |
| <b>1 Explore</b>                | Develop and reshape thoughts, ideas, feelings, and experiences.                                            |              |                     |                |                |
| <b>2 Respond critically</b>     | Understand and evaluate oral, print, and media texts; recognize how form and genre shape meaning.          |              |                     |                |                |
| <b>3 Manage information</b>     | Locate, assess, organize, synthesize, and integrate ideas from primary and secondary sources.              |              |                     |                |                |
| <b>4 Communicate with craft</b> | Revise and edit for audience, purpose, precision, unity, coherence, conventions, and effectiveness.        |              |                     |                |                |
| <b>5 Build community</b>        | Listen openly, communicate respectfully, consider diverse viewpoints, and work constructively with others. |              |                     |                |                |

## Course goals

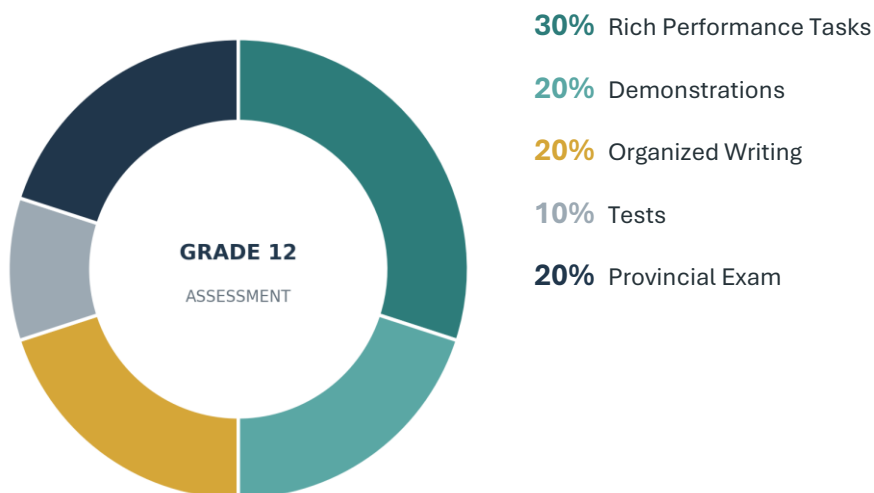
- Enlarge empathy and understanding of others
- Examine ethical and moral questions in society
- Experience and appreciate a wide variety of texts
- Form deeper connections with texts and ideas
- Develop a stronger understanding of self
- Enjoy the exploration of literature and creative expression

### STUDENT SUCCESS

Expect regular reading, independent work, discussion, writing, revision, and creative response. Build reading time into your weekly schedule and keep track of interim and final deadlines.

## Assessment and evaluation

Grades reflect demonstrated achievement of course outcomes. Summative evidence is organized into the categories below.



### What counts in each category?

| CATEGORY               | EXAMPLES                                                                           |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rich Performance Tasks | Creative writing, visual representations, presentations, and end-of-unit projects  |
| Demonstrations         | Quizzes, journals, vocabulary, grammar practice, in-class tasks, and oral reading  |
| Organized Writing      | Paragraphs, essays, analysis, comparison, exposition, and other structured writing |
| Tests                  | Unit tests and other summative checks                                              |
| Provincial Exam        | Compulsory Grade 12 English examination; 20% of the final grade                    |

#### COMPLETION REQUIREMENT

**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.**

# Course expectations and policies

## Attendance and deadlines

- Attend regularly and arrive prepared. Lates, personals, and truanancies are recorded under the SVRSS attendance policy.
- Students are responsible for completing assignments on time. Communicate early if circumstances affect your work.
- Late work may be recorded as collected at the teacher's discretion.

## Academic integrity and AI

- Submit original work and document all borrowed ideas and sources. Copying, plagiarism, or submitting another person's work affects the validity of assessment evidence.
- AI may be used only when the teacher permits it and as a supplementary learning tool. Evaluate AI output for bias, accuracy, and clarity.
- AI must never replace your thinking, reading, drafting, or personal expression.

## Digital citizenship

- Personal devices are not used during class unless the teacher directs their use for an educational activity.
- Phones and other personal devices should be silent and stored in a locker or the classroom's designated safe area; headphones and earbuds must be removed.
- School-issued devices will be available for learning activities. Personal devices remain the student's responsibility.

## Habits that matter

- Track due dates and checkpoints.
- Give full effort and revise when needed.
- Read regularly outside class so you are prepared for discussion, assignments, and quizzes.
- Ask questions and communicate respectfully.

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Final date to hand in assignments: Thursday January 28, 2027**

**Provincial Exam Date: Tuesday January 12-Friday January 15**

**Questions? Contact K. Harness at [kharness@svsd.ca](mailto:kharness@svsd.ca)**