



8th Grade English Syllabus

Course Details

Course Code: 20100000 (Yearlong); 2010S100 (Semester 1); 2010S200 (Semester 2)

Subject: 8th Grade English

Required Prerequisites: Successful completion of 7th Grade English

Suggested Prerequisites: None

Recommended Grade Levels: 8th Grade

Duration: Varies

Course Availability: A listing of when this course is offered in the current school year can be found on the [VirtualSC Current Course Offerings page](#) (opens in a new window).

Class Times: There are no scheduled class meetings for this course; however, to measure learning, students will complete self-checks, practice lessons, multiple choice questions, projects, discussion-based assessments, and live conferences with an instructor. Students are expected to maintain regular contact with teachers. Students are expected to work on their own to meet the deadlines posted in their course pacing guide. Students should expect to spend 7-9 hours a week working on this course independently, in addition to any live meetings.

Textbook: There is no textbook required for this course.

Required Course Materials:

The following reading materials are optional. Students may choose to read a novel from the list or from short stories linked within the course. Students choosing a novel are required to obtain their own copy.

- *Copper Sun* by Sharon Draper
- *The Outsiders* by SE Hinton
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

Students taking the advanced track select one additional novel below:

- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *Call of the Wild* by Jack London
- *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur Conan Doyle

Outside Websites: A list of links to websites and online textbooks used in this course can be found here: [VSC Course Links Document Folder \(opens in a new window\)](#). Students will need to be able to access all of these links to access all course materials.

Final Exam: Students in this course take section A and section B comprehensive assessments.

Course Description

Books, poems, and songs are filled with stories about people discovering the world around them and the world inside them. Authors share their reflections about how people respond to changes and challenges. In this course, students encounter the many faces of change. They are also challenged to define and describe their own place in a changing world.

The purpose of this course is to give students the tools to understand and express who they are and where they want to go. By the end of the course, each student's portfolio of writings will provide a descriptive self-portrait of a young adult growing up.

The curriculum used in this course is guided by the [SC College- and Career-Ready Standards for ELA Grade 8](#) (opens in a new window).

Scope and Sequence

Advanced assessments are in italics. Students not completing the advanced option will skip these lessons and assessments.

Module 1: Life Changing Innovation

- Connections
- What Is Theme?
- Moving a Story Forward
- How Theme Develops
- Evaluate Mediums
- Context Clues
- Mature Writing
- Implicit or Explicit Meaning
- Find Main Idea
- Write a Summary

Module 2: Social Invention

- Check Your Sources
- Choose Your Words
- Close Look at Organization
- Gather and Organize
- Cite Your Sources
- Focus on the Introduction
- Connect Your Ideas
- Support Your Ideas
- Syntax and Voice
- An Excellent Ending

Module 3: Imagine Other Worlds

- Whose Truth?
- Planning Your Narrative
- Get Verbal
- The Beginning
- Something to Say
- Your Narrative Voice
- Transition Time
- Resolve and Reflect
- Imagine It Even Better

Segment One Advanced

- *What Time Is It?*
- *What's Your Style?*
- *What's the Genre?*

Module 4: Living Innovation

- What a View!
- What Do You See?
- Write It Right
- Make It Memorable
- Thinking About Theme
- Ask the Ancients
- Dig Into Poetry
- Have Your Say

Module 5: Imagine the Future

- Imagine the Journey
- Time for Tone
- What's Your Problem?
- An Engaging Perspective
- The Turning Point
- Symbolism: What Are You Implying?
- Journey's End
- Moody Verbs
- Make Your Pitch

Module 6: Technological Invention

- Changing Perspectives
- Know All the Players
- Respect Your Audience
- Start an Argument
- Words of Support
- Make Your Argument
- Emphasize Your Argument
- Prove Your Point
- Stand Out From the Crowd!

Segment Two Advanced

- *The Math of Poetry*
- *Taking It Apart*
- *What's In a Poem?*

Students will be sent a full list of assignments and their due dates at the beginning of the course.

Current pacing guides for this course can be found on the [Current Course Offerings page](#) (opens in a new window) on the VirtualSC website.

Course Grades

Teachers will share course grading details for students at the beginning of the course term.

VirtualSC Details

Information on VirtualSC student guidelines, policies and technology requirements can be found in the [VirtualSC Student Support Portal \(opens in a new window\)](#).