Year level description – Year 8

The English curriculum is built around the three interrelated strands of Language, Literature and Literacy. Teaching and learning programs should balance and integrate all three strands. Together the strands focus on developing students’ knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating. Learning in English builds on concepts, skills and processes developed in earlier years, and teachers will revisit and strengthen these as needed.

In Years 7 and 8, students interact with peers, teachers, individuals, groups and community members in a range of face-to-face and online/virtual environments. They experience learning in both familiar and unfamiliar contexts that relate to the school curriculum, local community, regional and global contexts.

Students engage with a variety of texts for enjoyment. They listen to, read, view, interpret, evaluate and perform a range of spoken, written and multimodal texts in which the primary purpose is aesthetic, as well as texts designed to inform and persuade. These include various types of media texts including newspapers, magazines and digital texts, early adolescent novels, non-fiction, poetry and dramatic performances. Students develop their understanding of how texts, including media texts, are influenced by context, purpose and audience.

The range of literary texts for Foundation to Year 10 comprises Australian literature, including the oral narrative traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as well as the contemporary literature of these two cultural groups, and classic and contemporary world literature, including texts from and about Asia.

Literary texts that support and extend students in Years 7 and 8 as independent readers are drawn from a range of realistic, fantasy, speculative fiction and historical genres and involve some challenging and unpredictable plot sequences and a range of non-stereotypical characters. These texts explore themes of interpersonal relationships and ethical dilemmas within real-world and fictional settings and represent a variety of perspectives. Informative texts present technical and content information from various sources about specialised topics. Text structures are more complex including chapters, headings and subheadings, tables of contents, indexes and glossaries. Language features include successive complex sentences with embedded clauses, unfamiliar technical vocabulary, figurative and rhetorical language, and information supported by various types of graphics presented in visual form.

Students create a range of imaginative, informative and persuasive types of texts, for example narratives, procedures, performances, reports and discussions, and begin to create literary analyses and transformations of texts.
### Language variation and change
- Understand the influence and impact that the English language has had on other languages or dialects and how English has been influenced in return (ACELA1540)

### Language for interaction
- Understand how conventions of speech adopted by communities influence the identities of people in those communities (ACELA1541)
- Understand how rhetorical devices are used to persuade and how different layers of meaning are developed through the use of metaphor, irony and parody (ACELA1542)

### Text structure and organisation
- Analyse how the text structures and language features of persuasive texts, including media texts, vary according to the medium and mode of communication (ACELA1543)
- Understand how cohesion in texts is improved by strengthening the internal structure of paragraphs through the use of examples, quotations and substantiation of claims (ACELA1766)
- Understand how coherence is created in complex texts through devices like lexical cohesion, ellipsis, grammatical theme and text connectives (ACELA1809)
- Understand the use of punctuation conventions, including colons, semicolons, dashes and brackets in formal and informal texts (ACELA1544)

### Expressing and developing ideas
- Analyse and examine how effective authors control and use a variety of clause structures, including clauses embedded within the structure of a noun group/phrase or clause (ACELA1545)
- Understand the effect of nominalisation in the writing of informative and persuasive texts (ACELA1546)
- Investigate how visual and multimodal texts allude to or draw on other texts or images to enhance and layer meaning (ACELA1548)
- Recognise that vocabulary choices contribute to the specificity, abstraction and style of texts (ACELA1547)
- Understand how to apply learned knowledge consistently in order to spell accurately and to learn new words including nominalisations (ACELA1549)

### Literature variation and change
- Explore the ways that ideas and viewpoints in literary texts draw from different historical, social and cultural contexts and how this can challenge the values of individuals and groups (ACELT1626)
- Explore the interconnectedness of Country and Place, People, Identity and Culture in texts including those by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors (ACELT1806)

### Responding to literature
- Share, reflect on, clarify and evaluate opinions and arguments about aspects of literary texts (ACELT1627)
- Understand and explain how combinations of words and images in texts are used to represent particular groups in society, and how texts position readers in relation to those groups (ACELT1628)
- Recognise and explain differing viewpoints about the world, cultures, individual people and concerns represented in texts (ACELT1807)

### Examining literature
- Recognise, explain and analyse the ways literary texts draw on readers’ knowledge of other texts and enable new understanding and appreciation of aesthetic qualities (ACELT1629)
- Identify and evaluate devices that create tone, for example humour, wordplay, innuendo and parody in poetry, humorous prose, drama or visual texts (ACELT1630)
- Interpret and analyse language choices, including sentence patterns, dialogue, imagery and other language features, in short stories, literary essays and plays (ACELT1767)

### Creating literature
- Create literary texts that draw upon text structures and language features of other texts for particular purposes and effects (ACELT1632)
- Experiment with particular language features drawn from different types of texts, including combinations of language and visual choices to create new texts (ACELT1768)

### Texts in context
- Analyse and explain how language has evolved over time and how technology and the media have influenced language use and forms of communication (ACELY1729)

### Interacting with others
- Interpret the stated and implied meanings in spoken texts, and use evidence to support or challenge different perspectives (ACELY1730)
- Use interaction skills for identified purposes, using voice and language conventions to suit different situations, selecting vocabulary, modulating voice and using elements such as music, images and sound for specific effects (ACELY1808)
- Plan, rehearse and deliver presentations, selecting and sequencing appropriate content, including multimodal elements, to reflect a diversity of viewpoints (ACELY1731)

### Interpreting, analysing, evaluating
- Analyse and evaluate the ways that text structures and language features vary according to the purpose of the text and the ways that referenced sources add authority to a text (ACELY1732)
- Apply increasing knowledge of vocabulary, text structures and language features to understand the content of texts (ACELY1733)
- Use comprehension strategies to interpret and evaluate texts by reflecting on the validity of content and the credibility of sources, including finding evidence in the text for the author’s point of view (ACELY1734)
- Explore and explain the ways authors combine different modes and media in creating texts, and the impact of these choices on the viewer/listener (ACELY1735)

### Creating texts
- Create imaginative, informative and persuasive texts that raise issues, report events and advance opinions, using deliberate language and textual choices, and including digital elements as appropriate (ACELY1736)
- Experiment with text structures and language features to refine and clarify ideas to improve the effectiveness of students’ own texts (ACELY1810)
- Use a range of software, including word processing programs, to create, edit and publish texts imaginatively (ACELY1738)
Achievement standard

Receptive modes (listening, reading and viewing)

By the end of Year 8, students understand how the selection of text structures is influenced by the selection of language mode and how this varies for different purposes and audiences. Students explain how language features, images and vocabulary are used to represent different ideas and issues in texts.

Students interpret texts, questioning the reliability of sources of ideas and information. They select evidence from the text to show how events, situations and people can be represented from different viewpoints. They listen for and identify different emphases in texts, using that understanding to elaborate upon discussions.

Productive modes (speaking, writing and creating)

Students understand how the selection of language features can be used for particular purposes and effects. They explain the effectiveness of language choices they use to influence the audience. Through combining ideas, images and language features from other texts, students show how ideas can be expressed in new ways.

Students create texts for different purposes, selecting language to influence audience response. They make presentations and contribute actively to class and group discussions, using language patterns for effect. When creating and editing texts to create specific effects, they take into account intended purposes and the needs and interests of audiences. They demonstrate understanding of grammar, select vocabulary for effect and use accurate spelling and punctuation.
**Identity**

How do language and images work together to create representations of an individual’s identity?

### (Part 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whole class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Preparing for reading - Introduction to representations**

- View a clip from The Checkout’s (ABC programme) Product Vs. pack shot segment
- Discuss the representations created by the company as opposed to the reality and how and why this is done

**Whole class**

**Comprehending visual text - analysing how representations are created**

- View media images that represent the same celebrity in different ways, e.g. Lance Armstrong pre and post performance enhancing drug revelations (Teacher to model with Celebrity A)

- Discuss and annotate elements such as -
  - image choice and positioning
  - colour choices
  - frames/framing
  - accompanying text
  - facial expressions
  - body language
  - advertising/lack of

E.g. [http://www.abc.net.au/tv/thecheckout/clips/?play=checkout_02_08_productvpackshotkidspool.mp4](http://www.abc.net.au/tv/thecheckout/clips/?play=checkout_02_08_productvpackshotkidspool.mp4)

**Annotate images:**

- Hardcopy or
- Skitch (Evernote app - for iPad and Windows)
Pair/Group

- Repeat with a second celebrity, e.g. Kristen and Rob – pre and post split (Pair/Group work)
Whole class

Preparing for reading - analysing the language features and images used to develop a representation of a person’s identity

• Analysing the “images window”
  o Show pages 4-5 of the graphic novel The Bloodhound Boys by Andrew Cranna with the written text covered.
  o What do we think this section of the text is about? Why?
  o Create a character map for one of the characters based on what can be seen in the images windows.

• Analysing the “images and words window”
  o Show pages 4-5 again, this time with the text and see what else can be discovered about the character.
  o Has this confirmed our views around what this section of text is about? Why/Why not?
  o Edit the character map based on information gained through the written text about the identity of the character. E.g. confirm, elaborate etc.

• Analysing the features of the pages
  o Show pages 4-5 again, this time focus on: the panels, gutters, transitions, balloons, vectors, invitations etc.
  o Has this provided us with a more sophisticated understanding of the character’s identity?

• Responding to the text
  o What was the author’s purpose?
  o What techniques have been used to build up the identity of the character?
  o What lifestyles, values, points of view, stereotypes etc. have been represented?
  o Could different people interpret the character’s identity differently? Why?
  o Is there any information that has been omitted? Why?

Pair/Group

Creating a character map

• Repeat the above steps to create a character map for one or all of the characters in a section of a graphic novel that reveals the way language and images have been used to create a representation of this character’s identity

(Part 2)

Create character map using pencil & paper, Kidspiration, Inspiration, Popplet, or Sticky words app.

Whole class

How did the images and language work together to build a sense of the character’s identity?

### Whole class

**Explain the task:**

Representing your identity – students are to create a series of panels describing a scenario (real or imagined) that reveals their identity, i.e. their thoughts, feelings, experiences, etc. They can represent their identity from either their own or from others’ perspective.

**Model planning:**

- **Plan**
  - What representation are you hoping to create (purpose)?
  - What lifestyles, values, points of view, stereotypes etc. do you want to represent?
  - What scenario would help you achieve this? (e.g. school dance, party, classroom lesson, swimming carnival, shopping trip etc.)
  - Is there any information that you will omit? Why?
  - What techniques will you use to build up your identity? (images, words, the panels, gutters, transitions, balloons, vectors, invitations etc.)
  - Could different people interpret the created identity differently?

### Individual

- Create a page/s in the style of a graphic novel that uses language and images to create a representation of your identity.

---

Supporting resources:


Weebly link - [http://gettinggraphic.weebly.com/](http://gettinggraphic.weebly.com/)
DEEP UNDER THE EARTH’S CRUST...

NEAR SKULL RIVER CITY...

A BRUTAL GAME OF SKULLBALL IS UNDERWAY BETWEEN...

ROCKY WEREWOLF
VAMPIRE VINCE
GRETEL GHOUL
ANCIENT ARCHIE
LUCIFER
LOCH NESS LEO

THESE AIN’T YOUR AVERAGE KIDS!
THEY'RE MONSTER KIDS... LIVING IN A MONSTER WORLD.

BRING IT ON, ROCKY!

FINAL POINT.

THE SERVE.

NICE REPLY.

MISSED?

WHACK

NO WAY!

WATCH THIS, GUYS!