

Year 8 English

Semester 1 Unit Outline

Throughout the semester, students will actively engage in reading, writing, and rich discussions to develop their understanding of how texts create meaning.

In Term 1, students will explore how films communicate ideas about the world, with a focus on theme and representation. Using *The Wild Robot*, students will learn how characters, settings, and events are represented and how these choices shape audience understanding. They will examine how themes such as identity, belonging, technology, and the natural world are developed through visual and sound techniques. Class discussions will support students to share perspectives, listen to others, and deepen their understanding of how meaning is created.

In Term 2, students will explore how picture books communicate ideas about social issues and the world around them. They will examine how images and written text work together to create meaning, with a focus on representation, perspective, and visual techniques. Students will analyse how illustrators and authors use colour, layout, symbolism, and language to shape audience understanding and response. Through class discussions and close analysis, students will consider how different viewpoints and experiences are represented. They will then apply their learning by planning, drafting, and creating their own picture book that explores a social issue of their choice.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be assessed on the following Learning Outcomes:

- Interacts with others, and listens to and creates spoken and/or multimodal texts including literary texts
- Reads, views and comprehends a range of texts created to inform, influence and/or engage audiences
- Explains how text structures shape meaning
- Explains the effects of language features including intertextual references and literary devices, and visual features
- Creates written and/or multimodal texts, including literary texts for different purposes and audiences, expressing and advancing ideas with supporting evidence

Assessment Tasks

Students will be assessed on their participation and completion of classwork and assessment tasks.

Task	Week Due*
Classwork	Ongoing
Participation in discussions	Ongoing
Paragraph writing	Ongoing
Film conversation task	Week 9, Term 1
Picture book	Week 9, Term 2

*Due dates are an estimate only

Teachers: Melinda Jenkins and Ethan Gannon

Executive Teacher: Prue Gill

