

SDFAS -- 8th grade – French curriculum

READING

Exploring texts from the 18th and 19th centuries: Letters by Madame de Sévigné, Diderot, Voltaire...; realistic or fantastic fiction by Mérimée, Maupassant, Poe, Swift...; excerpts from a 19th century novel by Dumas, Balzac, Dickens, Tolstoy...

Lyric poetry: selection of poems from all periods (Villon, Ronsard, Lamartine, Eluard, Aragon...)

Theater, Comedy/tragic-comedy/drama: Molière, Corneille, Musset, Anouilh, Giraudoux...

VOCABULARY

In order to enrich students' vocabulary, words belonging to particular domains are studied throughout the grades.

In 8th grade, the themes are:

- Emotions
- Judgments
- Literary genres
- Abstract notions (initiation)

The students learn about the figures of speech.

This vocabulary study is linked to the books studied for the reading section of the program and covers the following areas of interest: misery and happiness, social criticism, fear and strangeness, self-expression.

WRITING

The goal at the end of 8th grade is for students to be able to write a coherent two-page (40 lines) text. The students should be able to produce a more complex text using the techniques studied in the reading section of the program. Students will learn how to write a summary as well as an argumentative paragraph.

They will practice all year with a paper due every three weeks.

The types of writing explored will range from fantastic fiction, to personal poems, as well as play scenes and argumentative responses.

GRAMMAR

The following notions will be studied:

- The complex sentences (clauses)
- Indirect speech
- Word functions

- Grammatical rules (verbs)
- Initiation to the study of the grammar in texts

GRAMMATICAL SPELLING

Students study the different spelling rules important in French grammar.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Students continue the practice started in 6th grade of the different forms of oral communication; they also practice reading aloud and reciting.

ART HISTORY AND APPRECIATION

Students study different forms of art expressions (paintings, music, theater...) in relation to the themes: "Arts, Space, Time" and "Arts, Separations, and Continuity."

Image analysis: the image as social criticism (caricature, press cartoon...); paintings from the Romantic period.