



Rangi Ruru
Girls' School

Year 8 English Programme of Learning 2025

Ko te reo te tuakiri, ko te reo tōku ahurei, ko te reo te ora.

Language is my identity, language is my uniqueness, language is life.



Year 8 English

Welcome to Year 8 English at Rangī Ruru Girls' School.

Our programme will be rich with opportunities to explore all areas of the English language and to gain valuable literacy skills. Our goal is to inspire a love of English, to challenge and empower you, to equip you with critical analysis skills, and most importantly, to have fun. You will encounter stories from Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond our shores. You will be able to see your progress through formative feedback from your teacher and summative assessment tasks you complete during the year.

In your English class, your Rangī Ruru values and Rangī Graduate dispositions will shine through:

Whakaute Respect – showing respect to your teachers and other class members and listening respectfully.

Aroha – helping other students, being kind to everyone, and sharing your enthusiasm for your favourite stories.

Rikarika Endeavour – making an effort, doing your best, self-managing yourself and your device.

Ngaana Enthusiasm – being positive, on time, curious, and open-minded to new ideas and activities.

Manaakitanga - Generosity of Spirit - helping out your teacher and helping others.

Tika Integrity – completing work in class and for homework, being honest about your understanding, showing resilience when you meet challenges and always presenting your own words.



What will I **understand** in English this year?

<p>Sharing stories is a source of joy and nourishment.</p>	<p>Ko pohewa, ko auaha ngā ara ki ao hou. Creativity and imagination transport us to new worlds.</p>
<p>Language and literature give us insights into ourselves and others.</p>	<p>Mā te reo, ka mōhio; mā te reo ka mārama; mā te reo ka ora. Through language comes knowledge; through language comes insight; through language comes wellbeing.</p>
<p>The stories of Aotearoa New Zealand are unique taonga tuku iho (cultural heirlooms).</p>	<p>Kia mau ki tō ūkaipō. Don't forget your roots</p>
<p>Literature, language, and texts embody power relationships.</p>	<p>Ko te manu e kai i te miro nōna te ngahere; ko te manu e kai i te mātauranga nōna te ao. We are empowered through knowledge and understanding.</p>



What will I be learning this year?

Term 1 – What’s Your Story? - Narrative Writing

Understand: Storytelling is source of joy and nourishment.

Know: Conventions and features of narrative writing are often subtle. Recognising them and the effects they have supports the crafting of texts.

Do: I can combine a range of narrative strategies to write a story, including carefully selected detail and a story arc.

Term 2 – The Quest for Immortality – Tuck Everlasting Novel Study

Know: Texts can have multiple layers of ideas. Exploring them helps to expose deeper meaning.

Do: I can combine a range of strategies to decode and comprehend a novel, using prior knowledge and information in the text to interpret abstract ideas, complex plots, and sophisticated themes.

Do: I can combine a range of strategies to write paragraphs in response to the novel’s ideas including carefully selected detail, quotation and comment that supports and elaborates on the main points.

Term 3 – A Significant Person to Me - Descriptive Writing

Know: Structural elements can be arranged for deliberate effect to build up meaning across a descriptive piece of writing.

Do: Use the conventions of descriptive writing and language features for effect in a character description of a person you know well.

You Need to Know This – TED Talks

Know: Conventions and features of performance are often subtle like the use of voice, gesture, and the use of visual tools. Recognising them and the effects they have supports the crafting of texts.

Do: Deliberately combine written language, oral language, gesture and a visual presentation to add layers to a short TED Talk on a topic of your choice.

Term 4 – Let’s get Critical – Short New Zealand Texts

Know: Texts in Aotearoa New Zealand help us to understand local and national events and ways of thinking and interacting. These insights can help us make sense of ourselves as individuals and a society.

Know: The ideas and information in texts are not always reliable or straightforward.

Do: Recognise patterns in how people, places and ideas are included, excluded, or represented across multiple texts.

Do: Identify the world-view presented in a text and consider the text’s potential impact on people.

Reading for Pleasure – Independent Novel Study & Home Reading

Do: Regularly read for pleasure, selecting books based on your own preferences and interests.

Do: Participating in reading communities discussing different types of texts and making informed text recommendations.

Reading: To encourage your reading you will need a real paper book in class for regular **DEAR** (Drop Everything And Read) sessions, and will visit the Gibson Centre library fortnightly. You will be expected to read as part of your Home Learning. You will also use the Reading Plus website to improve your fluency and comprehension skills.

Literacy: This will involve reading comprehension, grammar and spelling. To personalise your learning, we need to assess your literacy skills at the beginning of Term 1 and to check your progress during the year. You will complete four PAT tests and a SAST spelling test.

We will, also, test your knowledge of spelling patterns and morphology to create a responsive Structured Literacy Programme that we will do most lessons. We will be using two online programmes: Steps Web for spelling, and Reading Plus for comprehension, and a language skills workbook to support your literacy progress.

ICAS: You will have the opportunity to take part in the ICAS exams in reading, writing and/or spelling.

Homework Expectations during Term time:

- Reading Plus - two stories and two visual tasks completed by Sunday evening.
- Steps – 30 minutes by Sunday evening.
- Reading your own choice of book at home.

You will have some time in class to begin your Reading Plus tasks, but it is finished for homework. We recommend you do 20 minutes of English homework Mon-Thu, so your weekends are free.

Gold Sheeted Items: The following items will be Gold Sheeted to your school account: online PAT testing, a language skills workbook (if you need a new one), Steps and Reading Plus subscription.

