

Shirley Smith High School Vision and Values

Grow with us.

At Shirley Smith High School, teaching and learning is authentic, rigorous, and designed to maximise student agency. We align deep disciplinary knowledge and excellent pedagogical practice to ensure our learners are empowered to find their purpose, fulfil their potential, and shape their own futures.

Students at Shirley Smith High School are:

Curious

brave and open minded inquirers with a desire to know and understand

Connected

inclusive young people connected to each other, connected to their community and connected to Country

Learners

creative empowered learners with boundless potential for their futures and the future of our planet

Subject Details

Subject/s: English	Learning Area: Global Perspectives
Teacher/s: Josh Newham, Lauren Eager and Matt Barry	Learning Period: Semester One, 2026

Engagement in Learning

In order to facilitate active engagement in their learning, students are expected to:

- Arrive prepared for their lessons, equipped with a fully charged chromebook, a notebook, a pen or pencil, and any other subject-specific materials that may be necessary.
- Independently make an effort to retrieve and complete any missed assignments or coursework due to absences or extracurricular activities during their own time.
- Embrace the principles of the school's Yindjamarra wellbeing framework by treading lightly. This involves taking moments to pause, authentically connecting with others, engaging in deep listening, thoughtful reflection, and considering the impact of their actions on others.

Learning and Assessment Policies

Please see the school website for policies regarding the submission of late work, extension requests for assessment tasks, and plagiarism and academic integrity.

Description of Learning

Unit overview:

Into the Apocalypse - Creative writing

This unit will build your understanding of writing with purpose and for an audience and genre. It will focus specifically on writing creatively and students will learn about the tropes and features of the dystopian genre. Students will learn about the art of story beginnings, figurative language and creation of tone. They will analyse texts, identifying features which build the dystopian genre purpose and construct meaning. Using samples of writing as models, students will work on building their reading comprehension skills, focusing on scanning, summarising and questioning.

Coming of Age - Film Study

This unit will explore the classic features of coming of age stories. Students will learn about Visual literacy and develop skills in annotating and developing visual images. Students will respond to a film study, looking at film techniques and manipulation of the audience in the coming of age genre. Students will analyse and deconstruct and film in the form of an analytical essay.

Unit learning outcomes:

By the end of this unit, students will demonstrate a level of achievement for the following standards:

- discuss, express and elaborate on ideas with supporting evidence, with different purposes and for audiences;
- read, view and comprehend a range of texts created to inform, influence and/or engage audiences;
- explain how ideas are represented and how texts reflect or challenge contexts;
- explain the aesthetic qualities of texts;
- explain how text structures shape meaning;
- explain 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
- select and vary text structures to organise, develop and link ideas when writing and creating
- select and vary language features including literary devices, and/or multimodal features.

Assessment:

Task	Approximate Due Date
- Class work	Ongoing
- Formative Assessment	Ongoing
- Reading Comprehension	24/02/2026
- Creative Writing	30/03/2026
- Image Annotation Test	11/05/2026
- Coming of Age Essay	22/06/2026

Learning Experiences

Throughout the unit, students may have the opportunity to engage in the following learning experiences:

Incursions/Excursions - Creative writing workshop hosted by Amaroo School, Reading Club.

Competitions - Writing competitions

Film Studies - Bend it like Beckham, Wonder, Stand By Me, Ferris Bueller's day off, Song of the Sea, Storm Boy, Whale Rider,

Please contact your child's teacher if you do not wish for your child to view these films.