

# **English 7**

Kathleen Schalk

2019-2020

The seventh grade English curriculum seeks to foster an understanding of the material covered in world cultures. As such, students will be introduced to the people of the world via memoir, non-fiction, poetry, news articles, short stories, and novels. With culture study serving as the backdrop, three interconnected components will serve as the primary areas of learning: reading, writing, and grammar.

## **Writing**

As a continuation of the foundation established in 6th grade, The 6+1 Traits of Writing model is used for instruction and assessment purposes. Students have learned about the qualities that are inherent in all “good” writing—ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation—and they will continue to incorporate these qualities into their own writing. Rubrics are used extensively by the students so that they can learn to evaluate their own writing and by the teacher as a tool for evaluating writing. If students are able to recognize the qualities which attribute to well-written work, they will be better equipped to evaluate and improve their own writing. All stages in the writing process will be stressed, which will often necessitate several revisions of a single piece of writing. Research will be encouraged in many writing assignments in addition to standard research reports. The various modes of writing will be taught—narrative, expository, descriptive, persuasive, and creative, as well as literary response.

In addition to written expression, oral expression is developed through class discussion, literary conversations, oral reports, presentations, and book talks.

## **Reading**

Self- discovery, coming of age and overcoming adversity are just some of the themes contained in the seventh grade reading selections. Reading assignments are age appropriate and range from novels to short stories and poems. Classes emphasize discussion and the study of the basic components of short stories and novels, including characterization, theme, point of view, symbol, irony, etc. Students are encouraged to read actively, to form their own opinions about what they read, and to articulate their views in discussions and writing assignments. The nine steps of reading comprehension will be modeled and emphasized with each reading.

All students also have to read an additional book per quarter as part of their independent reading requirement. All independent reading books are checked for reading level, content and appropriateness of subject matter. Students are encouraged to carry their independent reading books to class, as the opportunity to read arrives frequently. Students

are to monitor their own reading. Vocabulary will be an extension of understanding what is read and strengthening student written expression.

### Grammar

By the end of the seventh grade, students will have been exposed to the following: parts of speech, parts of the sentence, diction, punctuation, verbs, modifiers, phrases, and clauses. Grammar will be introduced as a separate unit of study as well as investigated as an integral part of individual written expression. Students will review general grammar skills (such as identifying parts of speech) in addition learning more sophisticated concepts such as clauses and phrases with the primary goal of incorporating learned technique into their own writing.

### Homework

Homework is given regularly and students should take approximately 20-30 minutes each night, perhaps longer when factoring review for forthcoming tests and quizzes. On nights where assignments are light, the time should be used to stay current with monthly independent reading requirements.

### Formal Written Assignments/Projects

In keeping with the academic honesty policy, the work that any student brings to class should be his or her own, irrespective of whether it is being collected or graded.

All major written assignments and projects will be assigned a minimum of two weeks in advance. Projects are intended to address a variety of learning styles and incorporate creativity and artistry, as well as writing. Examples of past projects include posters, game boards, persuasive letters, police reports and videos. Students will have the opportunity to submit ungraded drafts prior to a due date to receive ungraded feedback. Formal written assessments will occur at least once a month and will be administered primarily in class. Writing done outside of class must be composed independently by the student.

### Extra Help

Extra help is available at 11:06 four days a week. I am also available by appointment before and after school. Students are encouraged to speak to me regarding availability and to schedule.

### *Required Readings for English*

*Refugee* by Alan Gratz

*Shakespeare's Secret* by Elise Broach

*Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare

Call It Courage by Armstrong Sperry

The Pearl by John Steinbeck

\*\*Several other student-selected books are read throughout the year