



What to expect in a 7th grade ACE ELA class?

- Students are able to independently read for at least 30 minutes a day; this reading might be from assigned reading or independent novels but will include both fiction and nonfiction texts.
- Students are able to independently draft an essay in 45-60 minutes.
- Students possess an ability to work independently as is age appropriate.
- Students are willing to explore multiple genres in reading and writing.
- Students are able to understand and adhere to deadlines.
- Students will take risks in pursuit of deeper learning in reading and writing
- Students will be encouraged and supported to use conceptual connections in their learning.
- Students are able to move faster through learning and push to new/above grade level standards when appropriate.
- Students are passionate and motivated by reading, writing, speaking and listening.
- Students are able to deal with frustration or academic challenges in an age appropriate manner.

So what does this actually mean?

A 7th grade ACE ELA student might read an additional 1-2 whole class novels with an increased focus on noticing the author's craft. Students might be asked to consider goals, techniques, etc. of an author, but more importantly to what degree of effectiveness these are achieved.

7th grade ACE ELA students are expected to dig into research and age appropriate topics with multiple points of view. Much of 7th grade ACE ELA work is about critique and review. Students are asked to weigh evidence and expand on their ability to explain why they think what they think.

During the historical fiction unit, ACE ELA students might be reading books from various historical time periods that share connected themes or issues. Students will be asked to dig into the universal nature of challenges that are presented throughout history. Students might end the year with a whole class classic mystery novel and then launch into mystery groups.

These are all possible scenarios. Teachers maintain creative freedom in regards to units and book choices but the emphasis is on conceptual and sophisticated thinking. The priority for the ACE ELA class is to challenge students in their reading, writing and thinking as appropriate. This is accelerated and enriched content. If you have specific questions about content, please contact Joan Miller, millerj@gjps.org, the ELA gifted specialist.