Course Overview

Middle School | 7 | ELA - *Last Updated on August 25, 2025*

DESCRIPTION

K-12 Content Area | Mission & Philosophy Statement

- Foster a love for literacy across diverse backgrounds and abilities, ensuring equitable access to rich learning experiences equipping learners with the skills, mindset, and passion to engage actively as informed readers, writers, and communicators throughout their lives.
- Cultivate communicators and critical thinkers, empowering them to inquire, analyze, and create meaningfully from a variety of texts and perspectives, preparing them for the responsibilities of active participation as a citizen in our democracy as well as in an evolving global society.
- Engender collaborative and creative environments where learners innovate, elevate diverse voices and modalities to express themselves effectively and imaginatively.
- Promote a culturally responsive English Language Arts education that honors the identities, cultures, and experiences of all students, integrating diverse texts and voices to promote empathy, understanding, and respect.

Course Description

Students in seventh-grade Language Arts will continue to build upon their previous learning through knowledge and use of literature, writing, and communication skills. They will be encouraged and given more opportunities to express themselves and share information in a variety of formats that support creativity, collaboration, higher-level thinking skills, and some risk-taking. Grade seven students assume a more analytical approach to literature. They will explore a wider selection of literary works that illustrate the linguistic and cultural diversity found in today's society. Standards in reading include making predictions, interpreting characters' behaviors, and comparing and contrasting literature. Literary elements and literary devices will be taught through a variety of genres. Textual evidence will be cited to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. Students will focus on anecdotal and metacognitive note-taking with a socratic line of questioning. Various forms of note taking and graphic organizers are utilized in order to differentiate based on students' needs. In making the reading and writing connection, students will compose reading responses, develop characters, and apply grammar rules and spelling to compositions. Students will also write in narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive modes, taking into account topic, purpose, and audience. In addition, they will have opportunities for creative writing, including drama, poetry, and fiction. Steps of the writing process with use of graphic organizers will be incorporated in writing instruction. Grammar and vocabulary will be taught and reviewed in class.

Throughout the curriculum, students embark on a diverse journey of literary exploration and skill development across four unique units. Students delve into the world of storytelling, both as readers and writers, encountering a variety of contemporary and classic narratives that explore themes of choice and consequence. Through this exploration, students cultivate their figurative and creative thinking abilities while deepening their appreciation for the artistry inherent in storytelling. The curriculum builds upon this foundation, guiding students from storytelling to the realm of informative and persuasive writing. Through

collaborative efforts, close reading, and research, students learn to craft effective informational texts, initially exploring topics such as marketing to young people before advancing to the creation of compelling argumentative pieces. Students will further enhance engagement with rhetoric and persuasion as they navigate the intricacies of argumentation, analyzing societal controversies and refining their skills in constructing persuasive letters advocating for their chosen positions. Finally, students hone their linguistic skills through an exploration of poetry, monologues, and dialogues, delving into the subtleties of language use for impact. Through collaborative performances of original monologues and excerpts from Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, students apply their understanding of language and expression in both vocal and visual mediums, culminating in a synthesis of their year-long learning journey.

STANDARDS

Pennsylvania - Grade 7 - English Language Arts ELA

CC.1.2.7.A CC.1.2.7.B CC.1.2.7.C CC.1.2.7.D CC.1.2.7.I CC.1.2.7.H CC.1.2.7.G

CC.1.2.7.F CC.1.2.7.E CC.1.2.7.L CC.1.2.7.K CC.1.2.7.J CC.1.3.7.A CC.1.3.7.B

CC.1.3.7.G CC.1.3.7.F CC.1.3.7.E CC.1.3.7.D CC.1.3.7.C CC.1.3.7.H CC.1.3.7.I

CC.1.3.7.J CC.1.3.7.K CC.1.4.7.D CC.1.4.7.C CC.1.4.7.B CC.1.4.7.A CC.1.4.7.E

CC.1.4.7.F CC.1.4.7.G CC.1.4.7.H CC.1.4.7.L CC.1.4.7.K CC.1.4.7.J CC.1.4.7.I

CC.1.4.7.M CC.1.4.7.N CC.1.4.7.O CC.1.4.7.P CC.1.4.7.Q CC.1.4.7.T CC.1.4.7.S

CC.1.4.7.R CC.1.4.7.V CC.1.4.7.U CC.1.4.7.W CC.1.4.7.X CC.1.5.7.D CC.1.5.7.C

CC.1.5.7.B CC.1.5.7.A CC.1.5.7.E CC.1.5.7.F CC.1.5.7.G

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Specific objectives for this course are aligned with the Pennsylvania Core Standards for English Language Arts and the Eligible Content State Standards for English Language Arts.

ASSESSMENT TYPES

- Diagnostic Assessments
- Core/Choice Novel notes and seminars
- Curriculum-based measures
- Formative Assessments
- Summative Assessments

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SUGGESTED METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Below is a list of suggested strategies for high-quality instruction in English Language Arts:

- Instructional components outlined in the Framework for Teaching by Charlotte Danielson
- Goal setting
- Collaborative Learning through Socratic Seminar
- Formative opportunities to drive instruction
- Think-pair-share
- Reciprocal teaching
- Read Alouds and student independent choice novels

RESOURCES

District Approved Program Resources	District Approved Supplemental Resources	District Approved Technology Resources
Student Resources: The College Board, Advanced Placement Program. HMH Into Literature Arts Grade 7, 2024 Student Text Printed Version Student Text Online Version **Teacher Resources:** The College Board, Advanced Placement Program. HMH Into Literature Arts Grade 7, 2024 Teacher's Guide Printed Version with Online Access Assessment Resources	**Novels:** Grade 7 Unit 1 HA A Christmas Carol (Public Domain) Unit 2 HA The Hobbit; Hunger Games Unit 3 HA Path to the Stars Read Aloud Unit 4 Peak; HA Kon Tiki Unit 5 HA Bat 6 Read Aloud Unit 6 HA Freedom Walker	