

7TH GRADE ENGLISH**

SYLLABUS 2025-26



ABOUT YOUR TEACHER

My name is Ms. Marsh. This is my ninth year teaching and my fifth year teaching at Genesee Valley. I graduated from SUNY Geneseo with my Bachelor's in English and from Canisius College with my Master's in the study of Differentiated Instruction. In my free time, I enjoy reading, crafting, hiking, going to concerts, watching *The Office* and playing volleyball.

HOW TO CONTACT

Email: kmarsh@genvalley.org

Classroom Phone: 585-268-7900 (ext. 1110)



MATERIALS

- Pen or pencil
- a charged, school-issued iPad
- a school-issued iPad charger
- Any other essential materials will be provided by your teacher

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In 7th grade English you will be reviewing universal themes and literature/literary media from a diverse range of cultures. This English class will examine the roots of oral tradition, folktales, World literature and classic works of fiction. Students will be required to make real-world connections and collaborate with a group of peers in order to attain skills they will use in college and career. Recognizing that students learn in a variety of ways, various strategies will be used in the classroom to help meet the needs of each individual learner. Overall, students will develop skills in researching, critical thinking, presenting, reading, writing, and discussing texts and films.

TEXTS AND FILMS**

- *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park (with *God Grew Tired of Us* documentary)
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry (with film adaptation)
- Short stories including, but not limited to, "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe and "The Monkey's Paw" by W.E. Dubois

KEY THEMES

- What defines who people are?
- How do stories shape who we are and how we see the world?
- Who has power in our society and why?
- Who has voice in society?
- What universal experiences connect all humans?

GRADING POLICY

This course is graded using standards-based grading. Students will receive a score of 1-4 based on their mastery level of the standard being assessed. See a description below:

Standards-Based Score Meaning:

- 4 - Exceeds Expectations (advanced understanding of the standard)
- 3 - Meets Expectations (understanding of the standards)
- 2 - Approaches Expectations (some understanding of the standard)
- 1 - Does Not Meet Expectations (does not display an understanding of the standard)

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CLASSROOM RULES

- Be respectful of your classmates and their viewpoints
- Arrive on time and quietly begin your warm-up each day
- Raise your hand to ask and answer questions
- Sign out for hall passes and bathroom passes before leaving the room
- We abide by all posted school rules. Please see your student handbook for these school rules.

ABSENT POLICY

If you are absent, you are responsible for all missed work. Be sure to check TEAMS for classwork and due dates. You will receive one extra school day to complete work for each day that you are out absent. For example, if you're absent for a Monday and Tuesday, and you return on Wednesday, your missed work will be due on Friday. It is your responsibility to complete any missing assignments after your return.

LATE WORK

Being able to meet deadlines and be timely is important. Though points are not deducted from assignments that are late, keep in mind that learning behaviors, such as turning your work in on time, are included in the learning behaviors that are assessed to determine who is included on the weekly ineligibility list. A student's ability to meet deadlines will also be factored into their learning behavior standard scores on quarterly report cards.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Cell Phone Policy: No Cell Phones

- As per the student conduct manual, it is expected that cellphones are **turned off and placed in backpacks** by 7:45am and until the last bell at 2:54pm.
- Students must also keep smart watches and earbuds/headphones put away for the duration of the school day
- If a cellphone, smart watch or earbuds/headphones are noticed by Ms. Marsh, they will be collected and sent to the front office, where they must stay until the end of the day

Food/Drink Policy

- water bottles are permitted and encouraged in the classroom
- food may be permitted in the classroom *at the teacher's discretion*

Plagiarism Policy

- Plagiarism results in serious consequences, per the student code of conduct
- Avoid intentional **and** unintentional plagiarism by properly citing sources of information and consulting with your teacher

**this document is subject to change at the teacher's discretion, Changes to this document will be communicated to students before taking effect.