LINCOLN-WOODSTOCK COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Name: Grade 7 English Language Arts
Length: Full Year
Teacher: Mrs. Houde

Course Description: This course focuses on five areas of study: vocabulary, grammar, literature, writing, and speaking. Much of the students' writings is based upon their reading of novels, texts, and ancillary materials. Students will continue building their foundation of the writing process, including narrative, expository (informational), and argumentative/analytical genres. Independent reading is a course requirement. Core novels include: *Ground Zero, Freak the Mighty, The Cay, and Tangerine.* All learning will build a foundation for success in future ELA courses.

Competencies or Standards Assessed:

Competency: Reading

Literature: Demonstrate the ability to comprehend, analyze, and critique a variety of complex print and non-print literary texts.

Informational: Demonstrate the ability to comprehend, analyze, and critique a variety of complex print and non-print informational texts.

Competency: Writing

Argumentative: Demonstrate the ability to analyze and critique texts or topics and support claims and reasoning with sufficient evidence for the intended purpose and audience.

Explanatory: Demonstrate the ability to effectively write informative texts to examine and convey complex ideas for various purposes and audiences.

Narrative: Demonstrate the ability to apply narrative strategies for various purposes and audiences effectively.

Competency: Speaking and Listening

Speaking and Listening: Initiate and participate effectively in various discussions, responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives and expressing ideas clearly and persuasively.

Competency: Research

Research: Engage in research and inquiry to investigate topics, and to analyze, integrate, and present information

Competency: Conventions and Mechanics

Conventions and Mechanics: Demonstrate the ability to use English language conventions as appropriate to grade level. Specifically, the proper use of grammar, mechanics, and usage. Also, the ability to apply proper formatting, including MLA citations and Works Cited

Anchor Texts or Major Curriculum:
Ground Zero by Alan Gratz
Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick
The Cay by Theodore Taylor
Tangerine by Edward Bloor

Course Outline (major units of study):

Unit Title	Essential Question or Overarching Understanding
Resilience in the Face of Tragedy	How do shared experiences of tragedy shape individuals and communities across time and place?
Unlikely Heroes: Friendship, Courage, and Identity	How can friendship help people overcome challenges? What does *Freak the Mighty* teach us about acceptance and understanding?
Survival and Friendship in a Divided World	How do people's differences bring them together or drive them apart? What does *The Cay* teach us about resilience and survival in challenging circumstances?
Seeing the Truth: Family, Identity, and Courage	How can uncovering the truth about ourselves and others change the way we see the world? What role does family play in shaping our identity and choices?

LINCOLN-WOODSTOCK COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
COURSE SYLLABUS

Portrait of a Learner

Independent Learner
I make thoughtful plans and do my best to reach personal goals using feedback to work through challenges.

Responsible Collaborator
I work with others to achieve shared goals by listening actively, contributing ideas, and managing conflict.

Critical Thinker
I analyze information, ask thoughtful questions, and apply reasoning skills to solve problems and make decisions.

Effective Communicator
I express ideas clearly, adapting strategies based on the audience, setting, and/or purpose.

Global Citizen
I show that I care and take responsibility by helping in my community and the world around me.

Additional Classroom Expectations:

Students also have choice books, journal regularly, participate in Poetry Out Loud (within the classroom only), and read for a variety of genres, including nonfiction, fiction, and poetry.