Secondary English Language Arts
Grade 7 Public Overview

Grade 7 ELA
1st 9 Weeks
Assessments MAP Growth Reading: Sept. 9-10

What are we learning?
How can I help at home?

Unit 1 Overview: Crossing Generations
Genre Focus: Literary Texts and Narrative Writing
Essential Question: What can one generation learn from another?

Timeline: August 11 – October 8
Priority Standards: 7.1D, 7.5E, 7.5F, 7.6B, 7.7A, 7.7B, 7.7C, 7.7D, 7.8B, 7.9F, 7.10A, 7.10B, 7.10C, 7.10D, 7.10E
Link to TEKS/Parent Guide: Link to TEKS

Unit Overview: In this unit, students will explore the theme of Crossing Generations through a variety of literary texts while building strong reading, writing, and critical-thinking skills. Teachers will support students in analyzing characters, themes, plot development, setting, mood, and tone while examining how relationships between generations shape experiences and perspectives. Through discussions, annotations, and independent reading, students will learn how authors develop messages about wisdom, family, and learning from others. Students will also strengthen their text-based writing skills by supporting their ideas with evidence and participating in meaningful academic discussions. As a culminating experience, students will write their own narrative inspired by the unit's readings, applying storytelling techniques and author's craft to communicate meaningful experiences and relationships.

At-Home Connections:

- Ask your child to interview a parent, grandparent, or family friend about an important life lesson and discuss similarities between that experience and a character in a book.
- Share family stories that illustrate perseverance, responsibility, or growth, and discuss the lessons learned.
- During family movie nights, talk about how relationships between different generations influence characters' choices.
- Encourage your child to write about a meaningful relationship with a family member and how it has shaped their perspective.

2nd 9 Weeks
Assessments

What are we learning?
How can I help at home?

Unit 2 Overview: Facing Adversity
Genre Focus: Informational Text and Inquiry
Essential Question: How do we overcome obstacles?

Timeline: October 19-December 18
Priority Standards: 7.5E, 7.8D(i), 7.8D(iii), 7.9A, 7.10B, 7.10C, 7.10D, 7.12A, 7.12D, 7.12J
Link to TEKS/Parent Guide: Link to TEKS

Unit Overview: In this unit, students will explore the theme of Facing Adversity through informational texts and inquiry-based research. Students will learn how authors communicate ideas using thesis statements, supporting evidence, text structures, and organizational patterns. Through reading, discussion, and research, students will investigate how individuals overcome obstacles and respond to challenges. They will develop skills in evaluating evidence, gathering information from multiple sources, and organizing ideas into clear informational writing. As a culminating experience, students will conduct research and create an informational piece that communicates their learning using relevant evidence and effective organization.

At-Home Connections:

- Discuss a challenge someone in your family has overcome and identify the strategies that contributed to their success.
- Read a news article together about a person overcoming adversity and discuss the evidence used to support the story.
- Encourage your child to research a historical or contemporary figure who demonstrated resilience and share key findings.
- Talk about how reliable information is gathered and compare information from different sources on the same topic.

3rd 9 Weeks

Assessments
TELPAS Window: Feb. 15-Mar. 26
MAP Growth Reading: Jan. 27-28

What are we learning?
How can I help at home?

Unit 3 Overview: Imaging the Future
Genre Focus: Argumentative Text and Inquiry
Essential Question: Should humanity's future lie among the stars?

Timeline: January 6 – March 4
Priority Standards: 7.5E, 7.8E(i), 7.8E(ii), 7.8E(iii), 7.9A, 7.9B, 7.10B, 7.10C, 7.10D, 7.12D, 7.12H(i), 7.12J

Link to TEKS/Parent Guide: Link to TEKS

Unit Overview: In this unit, students will investigate the question, "Should humanity's future lie among the stars?" through argumentative texts and inquiry. Students will analyze claims, evaluate evidence, identify intended audiences, and examine how authors use reasoning and persuasive techniques to influence readers. Through research and discussion, students will learn to evaluate source credibility, identify bias, and distinguish strong arguments from weak ones. Students will then apply these skills to develop their own evidence-based arguments and effectively communicate their positions to an audience.

At-Home Connections:

- Discuss current developments in science, technology, or space exploration and ask your child to support their opinions with evidence.
- Compare two articles on the same issue and discuss which author presents the stronger argument and why.
- Watch a documentary about space exploration and evaluate the claims made by experts.
- Encourage your child to participate in family debates about real-world topics using facts and evidence to support their position.

4th 9 Weeks
Assessments TELPAS Window: Feb. 15-Mar. 26 STAAR Reading: April 12-14 (1 day Reading MAP: May 12-13

What are we learning? How can I help at home?
Unit 4 Overview: Making Connections **Genre Focus: Synthesizing Ideas and Evidence-Based Writing** **Essential Question: How can readers deepen understanding by connecting ideas across multiple texts and sources?** **Timeline: March 15 – April 14** **Priority Standards: 7.6B, 7.6C, 7.5E** **Link to TEKS/Parent Guide:** Link to TEKS Unit Overview: In this unit, students will strengthen their ability to synthesize ideas within and across texts while preparing for evidence-based reading and writing tasks. Through the analysis of multiple texts and genres, students will compare authors' messages, evaluate similarities and differences in ideas, and support their thinking with relevant evidence. Students will make connections between texts, personal experiences, and real-world events while developing a deeper understanding of complex topics. Through discussions and written responses, students will practice clearly communicating their thinking using evidence from multiple sources.

At-Home Connections:

- Read two articles about a current event and discuss how the authors present information differently.
- Ask your child to connect a book, article, or news story to something happening in their own life or community.
- Compare how the same topic is presented in print, video, and social media formats.
- Encourage your child to support opinions during family conversations with examples and evidence.

Unit 5 Overview: Becoming
Genre Focus: Fiction Book Clubs
Essential Question: How do experiences shape who we are?

Timeline: April 15-May 27
Priority Standards: 7.5E, 7.6A, 7.9A, 7.10A, 7.10B, 7.12J
Link to TEKS/Parent Guide: Link to TEKS

Unit Overview: In this unit, students will explore the question, "How do experiences shape who we are?" through fiction book clubs and independent reading. Students will analyze how characters grow and change as a result of experiences, relationships, and challenges. Through collaborative discussions and personal reflection, students will make connections between literature and their own lives while examining author's purpose and audience. Students will also create written, oral, or multimedia products designed for specific audiences, applying the communication skills developed throughout the year. As a culminating experience, students will share their learning through a presentation or publication that demonstrates their understanding of personal growth and identity.

At-Home Connection:

- Discuss significant experiences that have influenced family members and how those experiences shaped their decisions or values.
- Ask your child to reflect on a challenge or success from this year and explain what they learned from it.
- Encourage your child to recommend a favorite book and explain why it would appeal to a specific audience.
- Have your child create and share a presentation, video, or story about an experience that helped them grow.