Driscoll ISD 2026–2027

7th Grade English Language Arts & Reading

Course Description

Welcome to 7th Grade English Language Arts & Reading! This course is designed to help students become stronger readers, writers, thinkers, and communicators. Throughout the year, students will explore a variety of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and narrative texts while developing skills aligned to the **Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)** and preparing for the **STAAR ELA assessment**.

Students will use the **Amplify ELA curriculum** along with vocabulary, grammar, writing, independent reading, and technology-based activities to strengthen their literacy skills.

Semester 1: July 22 – December 18, 2026

1st Quarter Topics	2nd Quarter Topics
Unit 7A – Red Scarf Girl & Narrative **Students will explore** Red.Scarf.Girl **by Ji-li Jiang while studying narrative writing and the ways authors develop experiences, characters, conflict, and themes.** **Students will:** • **Analyze characters and their development.** • **Examine historical and cultural context.** • **Identify and analyze themes.** • **Analyze how events affect characters.** • **Examine point of view and author's choices.** • **Analyze narrative structure.** • **Use textual evidence to support ideas.** • **Write personal and literary narratives.** • **Develop meaningful descriptions and details.** • **Practice organizing and revising narrative writing.**	**Unit 7D – Poetry & Poe** **Students will explore poetry and the works of Edgar Allan Poe while studying how poets use language and literary devices to create meaning, mood, and tone.** **Students will:** • **Analyze theme in poetry.** • **Identify and analyze figurative language.** • **Examine imagery and sensory language.** • **Analyze rhyme, rhythm, and sound devices.** • **Analyze mood and tone.** • **Examine symbolism.** • **Analyze how structure affects meaning.** • **Compare poems and poetic techniques.** • **Examine Poe's use of suspense and atmosphere.** • **Write analytical responses about poetry.**

Unit 7B – Character & Conflict **Students will examine how authors create complex characters and use different types of conflict to develop a story.** **Students will:** • **Analyze internal and external conflict.** • **Examine character traits and motivations.** • **Analyze how characters respond to challenges.** • **Explain how conflict advances the plot.** • **Analyze relationships between characters.** • **Examine how setting influences characters and events.** • **Use evidence to explain character development.** • **Compare characters across texts.** • **Write analytical responses about character and conflict.**	**Unit 7C – Brain Science** **Students will explore informational texts about the brain and human behavior while developing skills for analyzing nonfiction and synthesizing information.** **Students will:** • **Determine central ideas.** • **Identify supporting evidence.** • **Analyze author's purpose.** • **Examine how authors organize information.** • **Analyze text structures.** • **Determine the meaning of academic and domain-specific vocabulary.** • **Compare information across multiple texts.** • **Evaluate evidence and claims.** • **Make inferences based on informational texts.** • **Write evidence-based responses.**

*subject to change

Semester 2: January 6 – May 21, 2027

3rd Quarter Topics	4th Quarter Topics
• Informational text analysis • Main idea and supporting details • Text structure • Author's purpose • Central idea • Claims and evidence • Comparing and contrasting texts • Vocabulary development • Research skills • Evidence-based writing • Grammar and conventions	• Argumentative writing • Claims and counterclaims • Reasons and evidence • Author's purpose and rhetorical techniques • Research-based writing • Primary and secondary sources • Credible sources • Citing sources • Comparing multiple texts • Research presentations • Review and application of 6th Grade ELAR skills