

Course Syllabus

Course Information

7th Grade Language Arts

Teacher Contact Information

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Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

This is a sequential course.

Course Description

Over the course of the year in Language Arts, you will do the following:

Skill Building

Reading - Short Stories, Novels, Poetry, Non-fiction, Drama, Self-selected novels and/or non-fiction
Vocabulary and Word Roots

Writing – Persuasive, Informative/Expository, Descriptive, Personal Narratives, Short Stories, Poetry

Oral Expression – formal, informal, and extemporaneous

Methods Used Will Include

Small and large group discussions, Class Notes , Journals, Learning contracts/ Novel contracts, Charting information/graphic organizers, Projects – individual and group, Writing process, Oral presentations, Independent Reading Activities, Quizzes, Tests, Research – primary sources, print sources, internet sources, M.L.A. citations of sources, Computer site navigation and on-line postings, Vocabulary and Word Roots

7th grade Study Units include: Prelude to a Year, Activities and Memoir; Poetry; Short Stories; *The Outsider* whole class novel; Drama; Multicultural Literature and Individual Research; Mythology and Fable; Survival Stories

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Ohio Academic Content Standards: Language Arts

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?Page=3&TopicRelationID=1699&Content=86687>

Required Textbooks and Materials

Elements of Literature, First Course – Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 2007

Elements of Language, First Course – Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 2007

Suggested Course Materials

See the District reading list for other Grade 7 reading materials.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Along with the following units a year-long, systematic grammar study is implemented. The students also participate in regular journal-writing to a prompt and independent reading which is made accountable by bi-weekly library journals that assess literary elements and writing techniques.

Unit 1: Prelude to a Year

Introductory Speech

Read “The Chase” from *An American Childhood* by Ann Dillard

Create a Memory Map (prewriting)

Write a Memoir about a childhood memory

Standards Addressed:

Reading:

S02 A01 – Narrative Writing

Writing:

S03 A-C – Writing Conventions

Unit 2: Poetry

Poetry Terms

“The Highwayman” by Alfred Noyes

Create 10 poems based on given models

Poetry Wars Begins – This is an ongoing web-based activity in which the students read, discuss, and analyze two poems per week leading to a vote on favorite poems of the year.

Standards Addressed:

Reading:

S02 C – Apply knowledge of connotation and denotation to words

S02 F – Use multiple resources to enhance comprehension of vocabulary

S02 F08 – Use dictionaries, thesauruses, glossaries, etc.

S05 B02 – Analyze the features of the setting and their importance in a text

S05 G – Explain how figurative language expresses ideas and conveys mood

S05 G07 – Interpret how mood or meaning is conveyed

Writing:

S01 B04 – Determine and purpose and audience

S03 C- Use grammatical structures correctly

Unit 3: The Outsiders

Literary Terms

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton (audio is available for identified students)

Character Chart

Conflict Chart

Plot Sequencing

Elements of News Writing

Music in Literature Activity and Analysis

Standards Addressed:

Reading:

S02 B04 – Interpret metaphors and

S03 A01 – Establish and adjust purpose for reading

S03 A05 – Use graphic organizers to interpret textual information

S03 B02 – Predict or hypothesize as appropriate...

S03 B03 – Make critical comparisons across texts

S03 C06 – Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions

S03 B 04 – Summarize the information in text

S03 D – Apply self-monitoring strategies

S05 – A-G – Reading Applications: Literary Text

Unit 4: Vignettes and Short Stories

Creative Writing Techniques

Read Interviews, Poetry, Essays, and Autobiographical Vignettes on a single author

Write autobiographical Vignettes

Elements of Literature

Read Various Short Stories from the textbook i.e. “Rikki Tikki Tavi,” “A Day’s Wait,” “Stolen Day,” “Charles,” and “A Christmas Wish”

Standards Addressed:

Reading:

S03 B02 – Predict or hypothesize

S03 B03 – Make critical comparisons across texts

S03 B04 – Summarize the information in texts

S03 C06 – Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions

S05 – A-G – Reading Applications: Literary Text

Writing:

S01 A-H – Writing Process

S02 B – Write responses to literature that extend beyond the summary & supp. judgments

S02 B02 – Write resp. to novels, stories, poems, and plays that provide an interpretation...

Unit 5: Survival Literature

Fiction and Nonfiction Short Selections

Students choose survival novels from pre-selected list and work in small groups (literature circles) to read, summarize, discuss, explore vocabulary and theme of their novel.

Culminating Group Project: Board Game, Map, or Timeline addressing all five of the major story elements

View Survival Film e.g. *White Fang* addressing the five major story elements

Standards Addressed:

Reading:

S03 B02 – Predict or hypothesize

S03 B03 – Make critical comparisons across texts

S03 B04 – Summarize the information in texts

S03 C06 – Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions

S05 – A-G – Reading Applications: Literary Text

Writing:

S02 B – Write responses to literature that extend beyond the summary & supp. judgments

S02 B02 – Write resp. to novels, stories, poems, and plays that provide an interpretation

Unit 6: Mythology and Research

Read various Greek and Roman myths from the textbooks, including classroom sets

Study Greek and Latin Roots and Affixes

Research Project – The students choose a character from mythology to research. They create a thesis statement, an outline, a draft, a final copy with works cited in MLA format, and a formal presentation.

Standards Addressed:

Reading:

S02 D05 – Recognize and use words from other languages

S02 D07 – Use knowledge of symbols and acronyms to identify whole words

S02 E06 – Use knowledge of Greek, Latin and Anglo-Saxon roots and affixes

S02 F – Use multiple resources to enhance comprehension of vocabulary

S02 F08 - S02 F08 – Use dictionaries, thesauruses, glossaries, etc.

S03 A01 – Establish and adjust purpose for reading

S04 A-F – Reading Applications: Informational, Technical, and Persuasive Text

Writing:

S01 A-H – Writing Processes

S02 D04 – Write informational essays or reports, including research

S03 A-C – Writing Conventions

S04 A-E – Research

S05 A-F – Communications: Oral and Visual

Unit 7: Obstacles and Resilience

Read fiction and nonfiction selections from the literature book

Tests taken in standardized format in preparation for the Ohio Achievement Assessment

Standards Addressed:

Reading:

S02 B03 – Analogies (Also, Wordmasters)

Writing:

S02 C - Letter Writing

S02 E – Persuasive Writing

Unit 8: Drama

Drama Terms and Elements of Theater

Pre-read and read aloud various plays in “Readers’ Theatre” style i.e. “In the Fog,” “The Hitch Hiker,” “The Monsters are Due on Maple Street,” “Napping Beauty,” and “A Conversation with My Dogs.”

Televised versions of “The Hitch Hiker” and “The Monsters are Due on Maple Street” are viewed and compared.

Standards Addressed:

Reading:

S05 A-G – Reading Applications: Literary Text

Writing:

S02 B – Write responses to literature that extend beyond the summary & supp. judgments

S02 B02 – Write resp. to novels, stories, poems, and plays that provide an interpretation

Grading Policy

We use the board-adopted grading policy.

Course & Instructor Policies

Entering the classroom:

Come in and sit in your assigned seat.

Be in your seat, with all materials, ready to begin at late bell

Keep your belongings neatly on the desk, in the tray, or under your desk; nothing in the aisle ways, please.

Respect others and their belongings – This means a variety of things, including:

Show consideration of each others’ beliefs, ideas, and feelings in words and actions

Don’t take or “borrow” someone else’s book, pencil, paper, etc. without specific permission.

Keep within your own area or desk space – don’t invade another’s “space” in any way.

Homework:

Routine homework assignments that will be reviewed in class when **assigned are due that day, and cannot be made up for homework points**. Students may use their freebie tickets to retrieve homework left in the locker, but after those passes are used, the homework cannot be retrieved for credit. The freebie tickets cannot be used in place of homework.

Extra Credit

Extra Credit is an occasional option for particular projects. It is not routinely or always available.

Compliance Points:

This is a kind of declining balance account, like a debit account. Each student begins the quarter with 100 points. A student will lose 3 points for each time he/she is unprepared for class due to forgotten book, notebook, or pen/pencil or other required classroom materials. A student will lose 3 points for any classroom behavior that impedes teaching or learning. (A detention may also be issued according to McCormick Student Handbook policies.) Each student will have 3 “Oops, I forgot my materials” tickets per quarter. These tickets may also be used for bathroom usage during class time. After the 3 freebie tickets are used, student will lose the 3 points as described. At the end of the quarter the tickets may be redeemed for bonus points. These little points will add up for the quarter. Be prepared!

Classroom Etiquette:

1. Students will remain in their assigned seats unless specifically told otherwise.

-Exceptions: emergency Kleenex need or other emergency need

2. Students will raise their hands and wait to be called on before speaking unless daily plans specify a different form of classroom interaction.

3. Students will be tolerant and respectful of others' opinions, viewpoints, and personal differences.

Hall Pass Usage

Any time a student must leave my room during class, he/she must have a pass signed by me (agenda), AND must sign out on the Classroom Release form kept in a clipboard near the door.

Students are to use the passing time between classes for water fountain & restroom use. Restroom breaks are not to be taken during class, except in emergency situations.

Illness/Sick Days

Students are responsible for making up work missed according to Student Handbook guidelines. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for missed tests, classroom work, notes, and activities.

Discipline

Students are expected to abide by the rules and procedures in the McCormick Handbook.

Remember, every action has a consequence.

Assignments and Work Due

Projects and assignments are to be turned in on the Due Date. There is a 10% point reduction for each day the project or assignment is late. At Day 5 and beyond, there is a 50% point reduction.

Projects and assignments are to be handed in as directed.

Headings on Papers

First and Last names, always, on first line of lined paper, or first line, Left side of Word Document

Line 2 - Date paper is due

Line 3 - Your class period

Line 4, Centered, Title of the Assignment

Classroom Dismissal

Students are to remain in their seats until dismissed by teacher. Please leave the room in an orderly fashion.

Technical Support

Study Island on the mobile laptop cart is used at least biweekly. Poetry Wars and Research Projects also require use of the mobile laptop cart.