

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Name: _____

7th Grade English Language Arts

Welcome to 7th grade ELA! We're so glad you're here!



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Course Description

I will power myself with knowledge - Malala Yousafzai



The focus of the seventh grade English program is to build your strengths as a reader, writer, thinker, and speaker. You will use a combination of teacher and student-selected texts to explore literature, poetry, nonfiction, and drama. You will continue to expand your knowledge of literary terms and other vocabulary. Grammar, usage, and mechanics will be studied as necessary tools of your craft. There will be many opportunities for you to apply what you are learning to your own written work, which will include literary analyses, letters, narratives, research presentations, and essays. You are encouraged to select topics, texts, and assignments that interest and stretch you. In addition, as classroom discussion, active participation, and working cooperatively in small groups are vital to your development as an independent thinker, you can expect to engage in these activities regularly.

Core Texts

If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young - Maya Angelou

- **Term 1:** *Cracker* by Cynthia Kadohata and "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes
- **Term 2:** *Uglies* by Scott Westerfield and *Mascot* by Charles Waters and Tracy Sorell



- **Term 3:** *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan and *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare
- **All Terms:** selected independent reading, visual media, poems, short stories, and nonfiction.

Guiding Questions

What we know matters, but who we are matters more - Brené Brown

- Who am I?
- How does who I am influence what I think, say, and do?
- What factors influence who I am?
- What strategies and tools help me to be my best self as a learner?

Thinking Tools

Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think – Albert Einstein

- Literary Terms
- Socratic Discussion
- Argument Terms



- Brain Frames and Outlines
- Checklists and Rubrics
- Exemplars and Criteria for Success

Support

Asking for help is never a sign of weakness; it's one of the bravest things you can do - Lily Collins

If you are absent or need help or enrichment, please check Google Classroom or email us. When you return after an absence, please see us during ME block or after school so we can help you to prioritize your class work, homework, and/or assessments.



Homework

The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary - Vince Lombardi



Assigned homework may include independent reading, finishing classwork, practicing a skill, completing a step in a long-term project, or reviewing for an assessment. Homework as practice is generally graded for completion: completed homework will receive a grade of 1 point, incomplete or late homework will receive a grade of 0.5 points, and homework that is not done will receive a grade of 0 points. **What if you are absent?** You can turn in the completed homework the day you return for full credit. **What if you were present, but you are struggling with the assigned work?** After trying for 10 minutes, please stop and email me to let me know where you got confused. We can check in the next day to clear up any questions you have, and you will get an extra day to complete the work.

Assessment

Success is no accident; it is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice - Pelé

This class is graded using a total points system. Grades will be updated biweekly and available online through Aspen. Graded work will be stored in your classroom folder or in Google Classroom; you are encouraged to review your work with your parents. You will be assessed in two ways each term:



1. **Formative Assessments:** Classwork and Engagement (1-10 pts per assignment), Homework Completion (1 pt per assignment), Quizzes and Mini-Projects (10-20 pts per assignment), and
2. **Summative Assessments:** Tests and Major Projects (50-100 pts per assignment).

Any assessment on which you have scored less than 80% can be made up to 80%. Use the error analysis sheet to look for error patterns and identify concepts that were difficult. Meet with me; bring the error analysis and original assessment. I will review the material with you, and you can make corrections, build your skills, and raise your grade.

Class Expectations

Life is not a solo act, it's a huge collaboration - George Takei



Be Prepared

- arrive in class with homework binder, planner, writing utensil, and novel; record your hw right away
- transition smoothly between activities and choose appropriate times for bathroom and water breaks
- return borrowed materials and wait for the teacher to dismiss you at the end of class

Be Involved

- engage appropriately during instruction and group work; show you support our learning community
- contribute to class discussions by asking and responding to questions; volunteer to help in class
- identify and use tools that help you learn; help make our class a place where everyone can learn