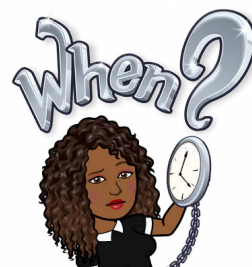


Grade 7 English Language Arts Syllabus 2025-2026

All great achievements require time.
– Maya Angelou



Contact Information: Ms. Daphne Sewell

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Classroom Phone #: 281.634. 5047

Course Description: The focus of English Language Arts (ELA) class is developing students' skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. In addition to our academic studies, the classroom environment will also promote socioemotional growth and encourage students to become lifelong learners and critical/creative thinkers. Students will read and analyze both classic and modern texts including: novels, short stories, films, speeches, art and poetry to explore themes such as self-identity, culture and the Sinsinawa Dominican values of truth, justice, community, compassion, and partnership in our lives and worldwide. Students will participate in a diverse range of writing activities, assignments, and projects in order to strengthen their communication skills, and develop confidence in their voice as a writer. Our learning targets encourage students to read critically, write consciously, speak one's truth, and be open-minded when listening to the ideas of others.

Topics of Study:

Types of Literature:

- Fiction
- Nonfiction
- Novels
- Short Stories
- Drama
- Multicultural and Native American
- Historical and Memoir
- Student choice book reading requirement
 - Students are required to read books of interest independently throughout the year
- *My Perspectives* textbook (Paper-based and online)
(Supplemental readings throughout all units of study)

The type of book units are subject to change and dependent on student interest.

Writing and Language Skills:

- Written and verbal communication including essays, projects, and presentations
- Types of writing:
 - Narrative: Telling a story
 - Descriptive: Painting a picture with language
 - Expository: Stating the facts
 - Persuasive: Convincing the audience
 - Creative: Exploring imaginative ideas
- Writing process: Prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing
 - Guided resources, peer writers' workshops, one-on-one student-teacher conferences with discussion on craft and feedback ("Pros" and "Grows"), etc.
- Writing mechanics, organization, style, fluency and idea development
- Spelling, vocabulary, grammar, conventions and parts of speech practice
- Research skills and identify reliable sources
- Create an argument with supporting evidence and counter viewpoints
- Creative writing skills and expression of ideas
- Identify themes and main arguments

Classroom Rules: "The Triple R"

1. Be Respectful

- Listen and learn when others are speaking
- Treat teachers, classmates, classrooms, and class materials with courtesy
- Use appropriate language at all times

2. Be Responsible

- Bring all materials with you each day
- Arrive on time to class
- Follow directions

3. Be Remarkable

- Give your best every day
- Ask for help when needed
- Encourage your classmates and be supportive
- Maintain a positive attitude



Expectations:

- I expect all students to be present and timely to class. Being tardy or absent will result in a loss of valuable learning experiences.
 - Participation is important! Have the courage to participate and have your thoughts, ideas and questions heard. Your thoughtful, informed contributions to class discussions are what will make the course interesting and exciting for all of us.
 - Complete your homework. Students will have daily work assignments and larger, long-term projects and essays that will require work time outside of class. I will always be available for support during in-class work time and additional study halls.
 - Respect others, respect yourself, respect the materials, and respect the space/environment. Use kind words and actions. Always speak and act in a way that is constructive and builds an atmosphere of empathy and kindness. Use materials and furniture the way it was meant to be used. Clean up your space before you leave it.
 - No cell phones, smart watches, or other electronics are allowed in class **(they should NOT be visible or used at anytime during the school day)** except for the school-issued HP laptop. Students must use the laptop assigned to him/her.
 - No gum, food, or drink (except bottled water) are allowed in class.
 - Bring all required materials to class daily.
 - Language Arts folder and composition notebook (any color)
 - Writing instruments
 - Pencils (with erasers) and pens (black/blue)
 - Highlighter (any color)
 - Post-It Notes
 - Used for annotating texts (any size/color)
 - Students and families are also welcome to purchase copies of the texts (books) for personal use and it is highly recommended, although not required.
 - Completed homework (daily assignments, essays, projects, etc.)
 - Charged HP laptop
 - Make a habit of charging your computer each night and bringing it to school with you every day.
 - Students are welcome to bring in a pair of headphones that are compatible with their school-issued HP laptop. These may only be used with teacher permission during work time. Extra pairs of headphones will be available in the classroom.
- Late/Missing Work Policies:
- If you know you will be missing class time or you will be unable to complete work on its scheduled due date, discuss this with me in advance to request an extension. If there is a personal emergency that affects your work, communicate with me so I can be fair in assessing your work. Family and health should always come first.

Late/Missing Work Policies:

If you know you will be missing class time or you will be unable to complete work on its scheduled due date, discuss this with me in advance to request an extension. If there is a personal emergency that affects your work, communicate with me so I can be fair in assessing your work. Family and health should always come first.

- 10% reduction of grade if work is handed in late on the same day it is due
- 25% reduction of grade for late work handed in after due date
- Zero for missing work. No missing work will be accepted after the final unit assessment

Cheating and Plagiarism:

Cheating and plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment and will require further consequences. We value your own ideas and personal growth.

Extra Help:

I am always available for extra help during class work time, tutorials, and before/after school by appointment. Please email me in order to schedule additional support.

Grading:

Part of your grade will be based on your ability to meet the content standards in writing, reading, speaking, listening, and language, while the other part will be based on participation, including large and small group discussion, being an active volunteer/listener, completing homework, etc. Overall grades are based on the quality of work. **All assignments will be completed and submitted in Schoology.** Students can check-in with me

before or after school or during a study hall to discuss grades, progress, etc.

Grade Categories:

Category	Percent of Grade
Daily Grades	50%
Major Grades	50%

"Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."

Martin Luther King Jr.

Acknowledgment and Understanding

Students and parents fully understand that academic success is dependent on the student's internal motivation and effort put forth in the class. Students who are not successful will be required to make up credits.

I have read the policies and expectations and agree to this contract.

In addition, by signing this class syllabus, the parent and student are acknowledging that they have read the entire syllabus and understand the expectations, procedures, and policies listed above.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Parent Contact Number

Print Student Name