

English Language Arts Grade 7 Course Syllabus

Mrs. Clarice Pink

ELA Teacher, History Teacher, and Art History/Art Teacher

cpink@stmarys-temple.org

Conferences: please email me to schedule a conference.

Welcome back 7th graders! I am so excited to start another year with you! We have so much to learn and to grow on from last year.

Course Description:

Throughout this course, students will engage in literary analysis of short stories, poetry, drama, novels, and nonfiction. The course focuses on the interpretation of literary works and the development of oral and written communication skills in standard (formal) English. The class is focused on four areas: Literature; Composition; Grammar, Usage and Mechanics; and Vocabulary. ELA Grade 7 sharpens reading comprehension skills, engages readers in literary analysis, and offers a variety of literature. Through a varied selection of stories, plays, and poems, many of which highlight exemplary virtues, students develop skills of close reading and literary analysis. Students will come to appreciate the writer's craft as they consider the feelings, thoughts, and ideas of characters, and make connections between literature and life. Students also learn to read for information in nonfiction texts.

Course Outline:

1. Writing- Abydos Writing Pro Grade Level 7 (This is a spiraling curriculum which builds and reviews upon previously taught skills. Each level is more complex than the level preceding it.)

- a. 4 major essay assignments:
 - i. Narrative and Poetry (Quarter 1)
 - ii. Expository (Quarter 2)
 - iii. Research Report for science fair (Quarter 3)
 - iv. Persuasive (Quarter 4)
- b. The Writing Process
 - i. Stage 1-Priming the text
 - ii. Stage 2-Prewriting
 - iii. Stage 3-Composing
 - iv. Stage 4-Revising
 - v. Stage 5 -Writing Conferencing
 - vi. Stage 6- Peer Editing
 - vii. Stage 7-Publishing

2. Independent Reading-Accelerated Reader Program (All 4 Quarters)

- a. Independent reading practice
- b. Reading comprehension assessments

3. Vocabulary book-Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary Workshop Level B (This is a spiraling curriculum which builds and reviews upon previously taught skills. Each level is more complex than the level preceding it.)

Example Level B List: accompany, acknowledgment, adaptation, adolescence, allegiance, alternate, amendment, apprentice, approximate, arrogant, assumption, attribute, balance, cell, chance, chivalry, collapse, commission, commitment, commodity, commune, compensation, complement, component, confirm, conflict, congestion, considerable, consist, constitution, constrict, consumers, contempt, contract, contrary...

1. Units 1-4 (Quarter 1)
2. Units 5-8 (Quarter 2)
3. Units 9-12 (Quarter 3)
4. Units 13-15 (Quarter 4)
 - a. Topics covered in vocabulary program
 - i. Greek and Latin roots
 - ii. Antonym
 - iii. Synonyms
 - iv. Analogies
 - v. Denotation
 - vi. Connotation

4. Grammar for Writing Sadlier Level 7 Grammar for Writing will replace Shurley Grammar. Grammar for Writing is an effective tool to address goals in the component of writing and language conventions of the current writing standard. The study of language conventions along with writing applications will lead the student into the critical goal of achieving writing to sources and allow students to use precise language and appropriate vocabulary and style with the use of critical transitions. These learned transitions will help develop arguments that support claims along with evidence with the goal of persuasion to a target audience, use informative and explanatory passages that convey and present ideas to develop a topic using relevant facts, details and examples, and last the student will compose narratives in fiction and nonfiction using key narrative tourniquet to develop a story and reach the audience. Level 7 *Writing for Grammar* will apply the knowledge of language to use correctly when expressing ideas and to learn how to avoid redundancy and wordiness. (This is a spiraling curriculum which builds and reviews upon previously taught skills. Each level is more complex than the level preceding it.)

Quarter 1

Prewriting
Drafting Revising Editing and Proofreading
Publishing and Presenting
Correcting Sentence Fragments
Correcting Run-on Sentences
Adding details
Using Parallel Structure
Avoiding Wordiness
Choosing the Right Word
Using Formal and Informal English
Speech
Kinds of Sentences
Varying Sentence Length
Varying Sentence Beginnings
Independent Subordinate Clauses
Varying Sentence Structure
Combining Sentences:Compound Parts
Combining Sentences: Key Words and Phrases
Supporting the Main Idea
Paragraph Unity
Patterns of Organization
Transitional Words and Phrases
Types of Paragraphs

Quarter 2

Writing an Essay
Parts of an Essay
Thesis Statements
Introductions
Body Paragraphs
Conclusions
Sentences and Sentence Fragments
Subjects and predicates
Hard-to-Find Subjects
Compound Subjects and Verbs
Direct Objects
Subject Complements
Nouns

Plural and Possessive Nouns
Pronouns
Subject and Object Pronouns
Pronoun Agreement
Clear Pronoun References

Quarter 3

Verbs
Regular and Irregular Verbs
More Irregular Verbs
Verb Tense
Active and Passive Voice
Verbals and Verbal Phrases
Adjectives and Adverbs
Comparing with Adjectives and Adverbs
Adjective or Adverb?
Double Negatives
Misplaced Modifiers
Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases
Conjunctions and Interjections

Quarter 4

Identify defining characteristics of a variety of literary forms and genres
Understand elements of plot development
Identify cause and effect relationships Agreement of Subject and Verb
Phrases Between Subjects and Verb
Compound Subjects
Inverted Sentences
Other Agreement Problems
End Marks
Abbreviations
Commas in Compound Sentences and Series
Other Comma Uses
Semicolons and Colons
Quotation Marks
Apostrophes
Other Marks of Punctuation
Research Report
Proper Nouns and Proper Adjectives

Quotations and titles
 Other capitalization Rules
 Spelling rules
 Plural Nouns
 Frequently Misspelled words
 Commonly Confused Words

5. Literary Analysis and Appreciation (for the year)

Identify conflict and resolution
 Understand elements of character development
 Identify character traits and motivations
 Describe characters based on speech, action, and interactions with others
 Make inferences and draw conclusions
 Recognize effect of setting and culture on a literary work
 Compare and contrast works from different time periods
 Identify and interpret specific literary techniques
 Understand and interpret point of view
 Understand use of language to convey mood
 Understand use of dialect
 Interpret symbolism
 Recognize and analyze use of irony
 Recognize and explain poetic devices
 Identify and discuss theme
 Compare and contrast literary selections and characters

6. Reading selections from Prentice Hall Literature Bronze Level include BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO AND CAN BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE:

Quarter 1-Prentice Hall Literature Bronze Level	
Olivia E. Coolidge	"Phaëthon, Son of Apollo"
Juliet Piggott	"Popocatepetl and Ixtlaccihuatl"
Robert Service	"The Cremation of Sam McGee"
Nikki Giovanni	"Winter"
William Shakespeare	"Full Fathom Five"

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	"The Village Blacksmith"
Carl Sandburg	"Fog"
Naomi Long Madgett	"Life"
Wendy Rose	"Loo-Wit"
Anne Terry White	"Demeter and Persephone"

Quarter 2-PHL	
James Dickey	"How to Enjoy Poetry"
Maxine Kumin	"The Microscope"
Zora Neale Hurston	"How the Snake Got Poison"
Russell Baker	"No Gumption"
Charles Dickens	<i>A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley</i>
Non-Fiction	Informational Texts/Research Skills

Quarter 3-PHL	
Annie Dillard	from <i>An American Childhood</i>
Alex Haley	"My Furthest-Back Person"

Non-Fiction Selection	Informational Texts/Research Skills
"Make Way for Sam Houston" Jean Fritz	Non-Fiction Study

Quarter 4-PHL	
Barbara Jordan	"All Together Now"
Gary Soto	"Oranges"
O. Henry	"After Twenty Years"
Cynthia Rylant	"Papa's Parrot"

Walter Dean Myers	"The Treasure of Lemon Brown"
Sherwood Anderson	"Stolen Day"

7. Novel Study - Fiction

“Some Kind of Courage” Dan Gemeinhart

8. Speaking (All 4 Quarters)

- a. Enunciation/Clarity
- b. Rate of speech
- c. Volume
- d. Eye Contact
- e. Posture
- f. Gestures
- g. Articulation

Classroom Rules

Respect yourself and others.

Use appropriate language and volume at the right time.

Listen to and follow all instructions.

Excellence only: come prepared to learn.

Stay seated unless you have permission to move around the room.

SMCS Grading Policy

- A 90%-100%
- B 80%-90%
- C 75%-79%
- D 70%-74%
- F 69% or below

ELA Grading Policy

Tests/Papers 40%

Quizzes/Projects 30%

Homework 20%

Conduct/Participation 10%

TOTAL – 100%

Cheating/Plagiarism/ Privacy

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic grade of zero. Plagiarism has and always will be Academic theft. This includes copying homework, classwork, test answers, talking during a test or quiz, allowing someone to copy your work, and **trying to pass off someone else's work as your own.**

Absent Work

The SMCS attendance policy is located on the school's website. The student is responsible for any missed assignments. Teachers are not responsible for compiling absent work. Students are given one for each day absent to make up work. Tests will be taken within two days of students returning.

Late Work

The student is responsible for turning in each and every assignment he/she has been assigned on the following class day. **There will be 10 points deducted for a late assignment after 1 day, after that it will be a zero.** However, students will still be responsible for completing the work whether credit is earned or not. Being absent follows under Absent work.

AR Recognition

Students will be expected to earn a minimum amount of points at the minimum percentage passing as indicated in the AR account. AR certificates will be given out at the end of each quarter. Incentives for students will be awarded at the end of every semester.

Telephones

Students may not carry or use cell phones or other electronic equipment during school hours. Cell phones and other electronic equipment brought for after-school use must be secured in the school office during the day, not kept in lockers, book bags, or given to the homeroom teacher, etc.

Students may make emergency phone calls in the School Office.