

7th Grade Language Arts Curriculum Syllabus 2008-2009

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Overview of Language Arts: The focus of this course is to have students acquire the grade level skills that are necessary for them to continue on a successful educational journey. Throughout the year students will strengthen their reading and writing skills. During the year students will also reach these performance goals which are in accordance with the Essential Academic Learning Requirements and GLE's (Grade Level Equivalents):

Student Reading Goals

Students will be able to:

- build vocabulary through a wide spectrum of reading.
- apply word recognition strategies to read fluently.
- demonstrate evidence of reading comprehension.
- understand and apply knowledge of text components to enhance comprehension.
- analyze, interpret, and synthesize information in a wide variety of texts.

Student Writing Goals

Students will be able to:

- understand and use the steps of the writing process. These include:
 1. Prewriting-generating ideas and gathering information
 2. Rough Draft-elaborating on a topic and supporting ideas
 3. Revising-collecting input and enhancing text and style
 4. Editing-using resources to correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, and usage
 5. Publishing
- write for different audiences and in a variety of forms including narratives, expository essays, literary essays, poetry, short fiction and memoirs.
- develop a topic or theme; organize written thoughts with a clear beginning, middle, and end; use transitional sentences and phrases to connect related ideas; and write coherently and effectively.

Methods of Instruction:

- Mini-Lessons (students move to the front for a 5-10 minute lesson)
- Read Aloud Lessons (students take notes during a 15-20)
- Silent Reading
- Partner Talk
- Small Group Conferences
- One on One Conferences

Text Books: Elements of Literature, Grammar and Composition

Individual Silent Reading Books: We have a library of books for the students to choose from. Students get to pick a book of their choice and one at their reading level to read during silent reading. This book can also be used for their homework reading log.

Grading Policy (In percentages)

100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, Below 60=E

Tests & quizzes:	20%	Projects:	20%
Class assignments:	30%	Homework:	20%
Participation	10%		
Total Grade:	100%		

Citizenship Grade:

- Demonstration of respect to self, peers, and teachers
- Demonstration of cooperation towards peers and teachers

Late and Make-up Work:

- Late work will be accepted in the event of an excused absence
- All other late work will receive a reduction in credit and a parent, note, phone call or email will need to be attached.

Homework:

- Students must read 30 minutes every night and complete a reading log. The reading log is due every Friday
- Students must complete 3 pages of writing every week. This is due every Friday.

Materials needed for class everyday:

- Readers and Writer’s Notebook
- Blue or black ink pen
- Pencils (regular and colored)
- Three ring binder
- Class dividers
- Pencil sharpener

I am looking forward to working with you and your child this year. Together we can give your child a remarkable education that will help them reach their goals. Please feel free to call and/or email me anytime: 252-7782, giwickstead@seattleschools.org

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature