

# 2023-2024 Syllabus

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Seventh Grade Language Arts "All things are ready, if our minds be so." ~ *Henry V* by William Shakespeare

## Required Reading/Resources:

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Each student will receive an individual login and password for the HMH Language Arts digital textbook and other digital learning tools. You will be using both the HMH Language Arts digital textbook and these other important digital tools via your iPad on a regular basis. Never share your login details with others!

## Digital Learning Tools/ Textbooks:

- **Archie student portal**- Resources, supplemental materials, checklists, and assignments
- **HMH Into Literature**- Digital English language arts textbook, annotation tools, practice, and assignments
- **Writable**- Writing software within HMH used for larger writing assignments
- **GoodNotes App**- tool for downloading, editing PDF notes, and uploading assignments
- **SeeSaw App**- tool for daily individual and group practice in class
- Individual student accounts: (login information will be distributed in class)
  - o **Quill.org**- Grammar and writing skills (diagnostic assessments and weekly homework)
  - o **Quizlet.com** – Vocabulary study helps and Language Arts terms review
  - o **ReadWorks.org**- Topical and interest-based reading skills practice (weekly classwork)

## Quarterly Novels: (Digital or Physical Copies Allowed):

First Quarter: Due September 13, 2023

- *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (ISBN: 978-1503312753) Also in HMH text library

Second Quarter: Due November 1, 2023

- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander (ISBN: 0544935209)

Third Quarter: Due January 24, 2024

- *Maus I: My Father Bleeds History* by Art Spiegelman (ISBN: 978-0394747231)

Fourth Quarter: Due May 1, 2024

- *Deluxe No Fear Shakespeare: A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare (ISBN: 978-1411479692)

## Physical/Hard Copy Required Reading Texts:

- **Independent Reading Novels**- Four total (one each quarter) chosen by the student, then approved by the parent/guardian and teacher for independent reading in class. Book selections must be made and submitted by the first full week of each new quarter.

## Required Classroom Supplies: Please label all supplies with your name or unique decorative tape

- School-issued iPad (fully charged) and iPad charger for daily classroom use
- Stylus pen for iPad
- One sturdy plastic folder (or a section of a binder) with pockets to hold reminders, handouts, and study materials
- One notebook (Spiral bound, composition, or similar style) or section of pages in a binder to be used ONLY for English Language Arts class notes and in-class work.
- Extra lined notebook paper
- Pencils with erasers, colored pencils (at least 8 colors), and blue or black pens
- Highlighters (at least three different colors)

## Our Path through the Year

- **First Quarter:** Review elements of plot and character using the summer reading books. Use the HMH Literature online text and other digital tools to recognize the relevance and value of stories, both fiction and fact. Practice using the conventions of standard English grammar to avoid common errors. Develop strong skills in speaking and writing through notes, group work, and small writing assignments. Seek out new and challenging vocabulary terms to master. Practice longer essay-style writing. Complete state baseline assessments in reading and writing.
- **Second Quarter:** Use context clues and other vocabulary strategies for unfamiliar terms in our prose and poetry reading. Use the HMH Literature online text and other digital tools to review the writing process with more formal writing and F.A.S.T. style practice writing. Write in a variety of genres including essay, short story, and poetry. Reflect on your own strengths and weaknesses as a writer. Complete state mid-year assessments in reading and writing.
- **Third Quarter:** Using HMH and other digital tools: review connotation and denotation of words. Explain the central idea, point of view, and purpose of any text. Strengthen writing skills with F.A.S.T. writing practice. Identify key traits of multiple genres of literature. Practice and prepare for the state assessments.
- **Fourth Quarter:** Compare and contrast a variety of writing genres. Use the HMH Literature online text and other digital tools to evaluate a variety of texts (fiction and non-fiction) claims, purpose, style, point of view, etc.

Review and refine grammar knowledge and writing skills. Recognize the unique traits of drama and scripted narratives. Complete final state writing and reading assessments.

### **Three Keys to Success:**

1. Follow directions the **first** time they are given.
2. Show respect to others and their belongings.
3. Always do your best!

### **Procedures:**

1. The fullest learning experience occurs when you are actively participating in a positive way during class. Be sure you have what you need and are prepared to ask questions, answer prompts, read aloud, etc. in class. If you are unable to complete classwork because you are unprepared, the quality of your work on the assignments we do in class will suffer.
2. Homework is always posted on Archie with plenty of days to complete. Finish all assignments to the best of your ability on time. Sloppy or incomplete work will need to be redone and will be counted late. (*Work turned in 1 class day late will automatically lose one letter grade (10% of the overall score).*)
3. As the handbook states, assignments turned in more than one day late (or not turned in at all) will earn zero points.
4. Please refer to the student handbook for policies related to excused and unexcused absences. Note that excessive absences, excused or not, will naturally affect your performance in class. If you are absent on a test day, it is your responsibility to make sure you make it up within the acceptable amount of time according to the school handbook.

### **Grading:**

Per the student handbook, the grade weights for this class are as follows:

Homework:	10%
Classwork:	20%
Projects/ Quizzes:	30%
Tests:	40%

**Homework-** includes any assignment given to a student to be completed at home and submitted during the course of a week. **Homework is NEVER to be done in groups and should ALWAYS represent the student's own best efforts to complete the assignment.**

**Classwork-** includes short writing prompts, group work, or other graded in-class assignments. Most classwork will be completed using the HMH Literature online text, Writable, ReadWorks, Quill, and Archie. In the rare event that students need extended time to finish classwork, they will be allowed to finish certain classwork assignments at home before the next class day, but they must do so **without** classmate assistance.

**Quizzes-** cover material from units, readings, and topics that have been taught and practiced in class. Quiz grades are designed to prepare students for larger assessments in reading, writing, and other elements of English language arts. There will be at least two quiz grades per grading period.

**Tests-** evaluate student performance and understanding of a literature unit, writing style, or other major course content. There will be at least two test grades per grading period.