

7th Grade English/Language Arts

Syllabus for Austin Middle School

7th Grade Languages Arts teachers:

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**Welcome!**

**Course Description**

Over the course of this school year, students will focus on meeting and exceeding standards in a variety of areas. These standards will be grouped into four main units of study.

**Unit 1:** **Theme “Individuality vs. conformity: exploring the relationships among individuals, societies, and communities”**. Our extended text will be The Giver by Lois Lowery, and we will also read several shorter texts exploring the topic of utopias and dystopias.

**Unit 2:** **Theme “What history has taught us about the fight for civil rights”.** Our extended text will be While the World Watched, by Caroline Maull McKinstry. Our shorter supplemental readings will include nonfiction selections and excerpts, such as Martin Luther King Jr’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”. We will also introduce poetry and song lyrics for analysis. This unit will focus primarily on the fight for civil rights in the United States.

**Unit 3:** **Theme “Demonstrating character: from average to exceptional”**. Our extended text will be No Easy Walk to Freedom by Barry Dennenberg, and read and compare several texts in preparation for the Georgia Milestones test.

**Unit 4:** **Theme “What fantasy and science fiction can teach us about ourselves”**. Our extended text will be The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkein, and we will also read several shorter texts from the fantasy / science fiction genre.

**Grammar and vocabulary:** Grammar and vocabulary instruction will occur on a weekly basis throughout the school year. Grammar instruction will take the form of a warm up activity daily. It is critical that students take these notes, and keep them organized, in order to adequately study for weekly quizzes. There will also be announced summative tests on this material. Do not throw your grammar and vocabulary notes away, keep them in your binder to study for future tests.

**Essays, projects, and research:** Throughout the year students will demonstrate their own analysis of texts and class concepts through independent and group activities. There will be a minimum of one major writing activity and/or project every unit.

**Grading Policy**

40% - formative grades (weekly quizzes, short writing assignments, DBQ’s & mini-projects)

60% - summative grades (tests, major projects & essays)

Grades are cumulative through the end of each semester and will be based on demonstrated mastery of concepts and the development of skills.  Updated grade reports will be posted on Infinite Campus/Parent Portal so students and parents may continually monitor academic progress.  You can access Infinite Campus at <http://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/>. Please contact the school office for more information on logging in. Grade reports will go out every four and one half weeks.

**Makeup Work and Late Work**

**It is the student’s responsibility to turn in work on time and to submit work after an absence in a timely manner.**Make up work needs to be turned in by the third day after the last date of absence. Late work will be assigned a penalty to the grade as follows:

1 day late - 5 points off

2 days late- 10 points off

3 days late – 20 points off

4 days late – see your teacher for specific instructions

**Materials needed:**

Each student should have the following for class:

1. a 1” Binder
2. 4 tabs (labelled grammar/ vocabulary/ reading notes/ writing drafts)
3. a journal (spiral bound or composition)
4. filler paper (college ruled)
5. pens (blue or black, and red) and pencils
6. a hand held pencil sharpener
7. colored pencils
8. 4 highlighters (different colors)
9. A gum eraser
10. A pencil pouch, scissors, a ruler, and glue sticks (recommended)

**Teacher websites and Remind**

The teachers on the team routinely post useful information about class activities and upcoming assignments on their websites. To access a teacher’s website ()

Please contact your teacher about signing up for Remind to receive important updates straight to your email or cellphone.