

7th Grade Language Arts

Teacher: Cathy Gilmartin
cgilmartin@d107.org
708-246-7351

Purpose Statement: Students will compare and contrast elements of various novels. They will compose multi-paragraph pieces for three different purpose (narrative, expository and persuasive) utilizing the writing process and evaluate them using the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing.

Goals: (What we learn)

READING

- **Students will apply strategies before, during and after reading seventh grade level materials in order to construct meaning:**
 - Identify the author's purpose and point of view and support with details from the text
 - Make inferences about events and characters in fiction and support with evidence from the text
 - Recognize elements of nonfiction: topic, main idea and details
 - Interpret information from nonfiction and fiction texts by summarizing and paraphrasing
 - Identify examples of the following ways to organize ideas in nonfiction: sequencing, compare/contrast, cause/effect, problem/solution
 - Distinguish between the following in nonfiction: fact, opinion, bias and propaganda

- **Students will read and analyze a variety of literature at the seventh grade level and be able to distinguish the following literary elements:**
 - Compare and contrast author techniques that highlight character traits and character goals in two different texts
 - Characterize the author's tone and use text evidence to support your opinion
 - Point out examples of hyperbole in a text
 - Point out examples of personification in a text
 - Summarize a story plotline including exposition and resolution
 - Identify examples of the following forms of fiction: narrative poetry, science fiction and fantasy

WRITING

- **Students will compose an expository, a narrative and a persuasive multi-paragraph composition using the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing:**
 - Demonstrate the use of transition words and phrases to tie sentences and paragraphs together
 - Demonstrate the mastery of the traits of organization and sentence fluency using the 6+1 Traits rubric
 - Demonstrate the use of the writing process: prewrite, draft, revise, edit, publish
 - Demonstrate an understanding of audience and purpose.

- **Students will demonstrate 7th grade conventions in original writing**
 - Demonstrate correct use of appositive phrases to combine sentences
 - Demonstrate correct use and punctuation of interrupted dialogue and dialogue between characters.
 - Demonstrate correct use of indefinite, reflexive, and intensive pronouns
 - Demonstrate correct use of semicolons, dashes, and parenthesis

RESEARCH

- **Students will acquire, access and communicate information on a topic they have chosen**
 - Formulate questions
 - Choose materials and determine their accuracy, currency and reliability
 - Take notes without plagiarizing
 - Cite sources using the bibliographic form recommended by Lyons Township High School
 - Report findings in a format that demonstrates synthesis of information

VOCABULARY

- **Students will integrate 7th grade appropriate vocabulary through the use of context clues, word origins, structural analysis of complex words and identification of word origins**
 - Determine the meaning of words or phrases from sentences or paragraphs using context clues
 - Determine the meaning of words, including those used in science, math and social studies, using knowledge of word structure

SPEAKING

- **Students will display good speaking and listening behaviors and use language specific to a demonstration speech**
 - Appropriate eye contact with the audience
 - Appropriate volume and speed
 - Speak with an awareness of the audience
 - Maintain good posture
 - Use standard English

- Use appropriate gestures and movement
- Respond appropriately to a speaker
- Attend to a speaker with courtesy and respect
- Recall information from an oral presentation by using a systematic method of note taking

Instructional Strategies:

READ ALOUD: Teacher reads aloud to the whole class or small groups. A carefully selected body of literature is used; the collection contains a variety of genres and represents our diverse society.

INDEPENDENT READING: Students read on their own from a wide range of materials.

GUIDED READING: The teacher chooses material for students to read and a purpose for reading, and then guides them to use reading strategies needed for that material and that purpose. The teacher provides guidance in a variety of whole class, small group and partner formats. Guided reading is focused on comprehension.

LANGUAGE AND WORD STUDY: The study of how language works and the application of word study skills in a variety of contexts.

WRITE ALOUD: Teacher and students work together to create text.

WRITER'S WORKSHOP: A structured approach to writing instruction that is student self-paced and includes mini-lessons, student choice, writing work time, conferences, share sessions and publication.

GUIDED WRITING: The teacher works with students in a whole group or small groups for specific writing purposes.

INDEPENDENT WRITING: Students write on their own for personal and academic purposes.

Resources:

During guided reading, we will be reading novels, poetry, short stories and non-fiction.

Vocabulary: The Vocabulary Workshop by Holt, Rinehart and Winston

Reading/Writing Skills: Daybook by Great Source
Junior Great Books

Assessments:

Tests/projects on novels will occur two times per trimester. Students will receive notice at least one week in advance. Vocabulary tests will follow the weekly study.

Literature

Homework 10%
Classwork 25%
Quizzes 25%
Tests/
Projects 40%

Composition

Homework 10%
Classwork 25%
Quizzes 25%
Papers/projects 40%

Homework:

In language arts, students can expect 20-30 minutes of homework every night.

I am looking forward to teaching your son or daughter!