

7th Grade English Language Art

Washington Middle School

Syllabus

Teacher: Kesia T. Martin, M. Ed.
Year: 2021-2022

Classes: English Language Arts
Email: ktmartin@mcpss.com

Room: B 23
Work: 251-221-2361

Course Overview: Welcome to 7th-grade ELA! Throughout this school year we will be continuing the study of grammar, vocabulary, speaking, listening, writing, and reading various literary genres. It is important to apply yourself and focus on your daily tasks to best prepare yourself for your future. I am excited to begin this rigorous yet rewarding study of English Language Arts with you.

Remember: The effort you put into your studies reflects in your output.

Course Objectives are based on the Alabama Common Core Standards posted in **Schoology** each quarter.

SY 2021/2022 At-A-Glance:

1ST QTR: August 11 – October 8th, 2021 ➤ BOOK: <u>Written In Bone</u> , <u>Time Machine</u> _(Honors) ➤ ESSAYS: Narrative & TD Writings ➤ THEME: From Where Do I Come?	2ND QTR: October 12 – December 17, 2021 ➤ BOOK: <u>A Wrinkle in Time</u> , <u>Christmas Carol</u> _(Honors) ➤ ESSAYS: Informative & TD Writings ➤ THEME: What Do I Believe?
3RD QTR: January 5 – March 17, 2022 ➤ BOOK: <u>The Book Thief</u> , <u>Just Mercy YA</u> _(Honors) ➤ ESSAYS: Argumentative Research & TD Writings ➤ THEME: Why Do My Values and Beliefs Matter?	4TH QTR: March 21 – May 26, 2022 ➤ BOOK: <u>A Long Walk to Water</u> , “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” _(Honors) ➤ ESSAY: Argumentative Writing ➤ THEME: Who Am I?

Resources: Literary texts will be available through **Schoology**, this includes Prentice Hall Literature book.

- **Pearson Literature Book:** Pearson Literature books are used in class often.
- **Books:** 7th-grade Students are also required to read Chapter Novels throughout the school year.
- **Schoology** is the learning management system we are using for MCPSS Remote Learning. Parents may access Schoology once they have the parent access code for their child’s class.



Proper heading of papers:

First Name Last Name
Date

ELA, Section (701, 702, 703, 704, 705)
Miss Martin

“Title Your Paper”

Grades are based on a 100-point scale (100-90=**A**, 89-80=**B**, 79-70=**C**, 69-60=**D**, and 59-<=**E**). Each quarterly grade is based on class performance, grades on quizzes, tests, homework, projects, bellringers, weekly summaries, projects, and other activities. 10 Points will be deducted for each day that an assignment is late. Please note that the grades are weighted according to the following scale:



- **Major Grades 60%** Expect three (3) major grades a quarter. Major grades may include major assessments, tests, writing assignments, and major projects.
- **Minor Grades 40%** Expect two (2) or more minor grades a week. Minor grades may include minor assessments, drafts, quizzes, observations, journals, participation, and minor projects.

Many opportunities are given for grades each week. There will be **NO** extra-credit assignments created or accepted. Each student is encouraged to produce their best work in a **timely** manner for each assignment.

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ATTENDANCE is extremely important! Show up ready to learn everyday. **Absences/Make-Up Work:** Students are responsible for their own work. If a student is absent or has an incomplete assignment, it is their responsibility to acquire information about the assignment and make it up as soon as possible. All class work may be obtained from **Schoology**. Failure to make-up missing work by the end of each quarter will result in the grade of an **E** for that missing assignment.

Bell Ringers (ALL Students): Due each week! There are four to five (4 to 5) bell ringers weekly. Bell Ringer work will be provided in class. Keep in mind that this document will be graded and should, therefore, be clear of clutter and look clean and professional. Students will have time at the beginning of each class to complete this.



Chapter Summaries (Honors Only): The Chapter Summary sheet has space for the characters, setting, conflict, and a how/why question. The Chapter Summary sheet will be provided in class. Will be do after each chapter.

Homework: Homework may be given in the form of a video and practice assignment Monday to Thursday. Students may view lessons posted via videos in **Schoology** and given a practice assignment. Such videos will be posted in **Schoology** via Flocabulary, EdPuzzle, DiscoveryEd or Nearpod. Students who use their time wisely during class will be able complete assignments during class.

Written Work: Written assignments should be typed in Times New Roman, 12-font. All 7th-graders are expected to use proper capitalization and punctuation with **ALL** written assignments. Work not meeting these standards will be given a **lower grade**. Each writing should be headed with your first and last name on the top left side. Students should write inside the margins. Holes of paper go on the left-hand side. Each quarter we will write essays that will differ in type and length. Essay requirements and rubrics will be posted in **Schoology**. There will be at least two (2) MAJOR writing assignments each quarter.

Essays: Typically, three to five (3-5) paragraphs long, unless otherwise specified. You will be informed as to the length of the essay. Paragraphs are typically five to seven (5-7) sentences as a MINIMUM. Sentences begin with a capital letter and end with the appropriate end mark (punctuation). You may include as many sentences as necessary to cover your topic. Each part of the writing process will be explored and expected this school year (**Prewriting, Drafting, Revising, Editing, and Publishing**). The addition of adjectives, adverbs, and descriptive clauses, as well as figurative language (similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, and alliteration) will help students reach their writing goals.

Editing Marks: There will be times you will be required to edit your writing (yours or someone else's). These marks should be used to indicate the changes you feel that person should make. They are time and space savers. Editing marks should be made in an opposite color from the text on the page.

Plagiarism: **Plagiarism will not be accepted.** "Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased. It includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Copying verbatim all or part of another's written work.
2. Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;
3. Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source;

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4. Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.”

Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accepting a grade letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Plagiarism is not acceptable.

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Miss Martin's ELA Classroom Creed

I will not plagiarize nor cheat in class. **#Integrity**
I will use classroom materials appropriately and keep my hands, feet,
and objects from harming others. **#Safety**
I will accept others and their differences by treating everyone the best way
I want to be treated. **#Tolerance**
I will settle for nothing but the best in my class effort and
maintain a positive attitude. **#Achievement**
I will be kind, use polite language, and show consideration for others.
#Respect
I will be on time and prepared for class and ready to participate.
#Responsibility
#ISTARR!
.....

Expectations: Washington Middle School 7th Grade Language Arts

- ✓ Show up to class or Login to class everyday prepared to learn on time. Attendance is important!
- ✓ Have **supplies** near you. (Chromebook, Charger, earbuds/headphones, pencil and paper, class folder, and class composition book)
- ✓ Behave in a socially accepted manner during class. Be kind. (No cursing, no name-calling).
- ✓ **Excel daily.**

Classroom Procedures:

1. Show up (login) on time each school day, review updates.
2. **BELL RINGER:** Complete your bell ringer work (3 min).
3. **VOCABULARY:** Complete your vocabulary work (3 min).
4. **READING:** Complete your reading assignment (10 min).
5. **PUNCTUATION/WRITING MINI-LESSON:** Complete your Punctuation/Writing (10 min).
6. **LESSON:** Participate in the Lesson **Miss Martin presents** along with the **WE DO.** (8-15 min)
8. **YOU DO:** You are responsible for completing all independent work. (2-5 min)
9. **EXIT SLIP:** Complete the Exit Slip of the Day. (2 min)
10. **HOMEWORK:** You are responsible for completing any homework.
11. Do not leave (log off) until you have been properly dismissed by the teacher.

Looking forward to an enjoyable, meaningful learning experience this year!

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Class Directives (Rules):

- Be Responsible.
 - Be on time for class.
 - Charge your Chromebook.
 - Follow directions & complete assignments to the best of your ability.
 - Actively participate in lessons & discussions.
- Be Ready to Learn.
 - No eating or drinking during class (unless otherwise permitted by the teacher).
 - No personal grooming or make-up application during class.
 - Bathroom requests (never disrupt class instruction, we go as a class during designated times)
 - Stay focused on the lesson/topic.
- Be Safe.
 - Listen and follow directions.
 - Wash your hands before using your Chromebook.
 - Limit food & drink around your Chromebook.
 - Use your Chromebook for school purposes only.
 - Do not share passwords or personal information with anyone.
 - Take short breaks to stand up and stretch.
- Raise your hand, wait to be recognized to speak and do not speak out of turn. (Nod extension)
- Be Respectful to everyone at all times!
 - Only positive comments allowed. We do not bully nor diminish others.
 - While remote learning, mute your microphone until you are called on to speak.
 - Listen to your teacher & classmates when they are speaking.
 - Speak clearly and use appropriate language.
 - Use the chat box appropriately, **everything** is recorded.
- Ask questions especially when you need help.
- Always do your best.
- Try new things.
- Believe in yourself.
- Work hard and have fun.

Consequences:

1. **Verbal warning.**
2. **Teacher conference with student.**
3. **Discipline assignment or detention (essay, silent lunch, detention).**
4. **Administrative referral.**

Rewards:

1. **Positive notes home.**
2. **Fun Treats or Blowing Bubbles outside.**
3. **Privileges.**
4. **Brain Breaks and going outside.**

Class time is very valuable. Students who do not come prepared or who are disruptive waste their time as well as the time of others. Disruptive Behavior cannot and will not be tolerated. Parents will be contacted if a student violates the rules of good classroom behavior.

Parents will be notified if there are any changes to any of the information listed in the syllabus.

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_____@stu.mcpss.com: Username: _____ Password: _____

RECEIPT OF 7TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS SYLLABUS FORM (2021-2022):

This is a separate page required of all students in this English Language Arts course.
Miss Martin will file this physically / electronically signed form as soon as it is turned in.

I have received the 7th-grade ELA Syllabus, and I agree to abide by the policies and procedures for 7th-grade English Language Arts. I understand that information in this syllabus may be subject to change.

Students, Parents/Guardians, and family, please fill out the Google form provided in the link in the image.
Filling out this form will indicate that you have received and read the above 7th-grade English Language Arts Syllabus. In addition, your contact information will be filed for important 7th-grade ELA or school announcements as a backup to Schoology:



Student Sign/Date

Parent Sign/Date



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In this ELA Class students will use a multitude of online learning platforms and tools. Students will use their MCPSS student email and password to sign up for or sign into each tool. These tools include:

- ✚ **Brainspring Structures** transforms students with dyslexia and learning disabilities into skilled learners through effective, interactive, multisensory approach to reading and spelling.
- ✚ **Clever:** 365.mcpss.com, Clever brings all K12 applications into one secure portal and provides single sign-on. Students may access the following tools for 7th-grade ELA:
 - **DiscoveryEd:** standards-based digital curriculum resources for K–12 classrooms.
 - **Flocabulary:** learning program for all grades that uses educational hip-hop music to engage students and increase achievement across the curriculum.
 - **i-Ready Reading:** Technology based diagnostic and blended learning instruction program for reading K-9.
 - **Nearpod:** an interactive learning tool for online and in classroom learning.
 - **Newsela:** News articles with comprehensive quizzes chosen by or assigned to the student.
 - **Outlook/Student Email:** It is important for students to regularly check their student email and their **Schoology** messages. The student email system is hosted and monitored by MCPSS and is, therefore, subject to all rules and policies of the MCPSS. Abuse of the site or inappropriate emails will be subject to disciplinary action.
 - **Quizizz:** a game show-style quiz tool similar to Kahoot! used as an assessment tool in class via their Chromebooks.
 - **Typing.com:** one-stop shop where students learn to type.
- ✚ **EdPuzzle:** accessed through **Schoology** allows students to watch video lessons with questions built in. Students answer each question and cannot skip questions during the video.
- ✚ **Flipgrid:** is used for discussion, reflection, exit tickets, peer reviews, and collaborations.
- ✚ **Google Drive:** is used for published written assignments and linked through Schoology.
- ✚ **Graphic Organizers:** will be used during the school year. Make sure to complete all organizers.
- ✚ **Kahoot!:** online gaming tool used for review, or homework for a formative assessment.

Schoology is my primary communications method.

If you use Class Dojo, you may join me there.

If you use Remind you may join me by texting [@msktma](https://www.remind101.com/join/81010) to 81010

Vocabulary Enrichment List for Middle School

Abet	Accord	Adept	Advocate
Agile	Allot	Aloof	Amiss
Analogy	Anarchy	Antics	Apprehend
Ardent	Articulate	Assail	Assimilate
Atrocity	Attribute	Audacious	Augment
Authority	Avail	Avid	Awry
Balmy	Banter	Barter	Benign
Bizarre	Blasé	Bonanza	Bountiful
Cache	Capacious	Caption	Chastise

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Citadel	Cite	Clad	Clarify
Commemorate	Component	Concept	Confiscate
Connoisseur	Conscientious	Conservative	Contagious
Conventional	Convey	Crucial	Crusade
Culminate	Deceptive	Decipher	Decree
Deface	Defect	Deplore	Deploy
Desist	Desolate	Deter	Dialect
Dire	Discern	Disdain	Disgruntled
Dispatch	Disposition	Doctrine	Dub
Durable	Eccentric	Elite	Embargo
Embark	Encroach	Endeavor	Enhance
Enigma	Epoch	Era	Eventful
Evolve	Exceptional	Excerpt	Excruciating
Exemplify	Exotic	Facilitate	fallacy
fastidious	feasible	fend	ferret
Flair	flustered	foreboding	forfeit
formidable	fortify	foster	gaunt
gingerly	glut	grapple	grobe
gullible	haggard	haven	heritage
hindrance	hover	humane	imperative
inaugurate	incense	indifferent	infinite
Instill	institute	intervene	intricate
inventive	inventory	irascible	jurisdiction
languish	legendary	liberal	loll
lucrative	luminous	Memoir	Mercenary
Mien	Millennium	Minimize	Modify
Muse	Muster	Onslaught	Ornate
Ovation	Overt	Pang	Panorama
Perspective	Phenomenon	Pioneer	Pithy
Pivotal	Plausible	Plunder	Porous
Preposterous	Principal	Prodigy	Proficient
Profound	Pseudonym	Pungent	Rankle
Rational	Rebuke	Reception	Recourse
Recur	Renounce	Renown	Revenue
rubble	Rue	Sage	Sedative
Serene	Servile	Shackle	Sleek
Spontaneous	Sporadic	Stamina	Stance
Staple	Stint	Strident	Sublime
Subside	Succumb	Surpass	Susceptible
Swelter	Tedious	Teem	Theme
Tirade	Tract	Transition	Trepidation
Turbulent	Tycoon	Ultimate	Ungainly
Vice versa	Vie	Vilify	Voracious
Wage		Wrangle	

Courtesy of Flocabulary.com