

Powell Middle School 2019-2020
7th Grade **Language Arts Syllabus**

Teacher: Ms. Moore

crystal.moore@knoxschools.org

My name is Ms. Moore ,and I'm honored to have you in class this year. This is my 17th year teaching which has been truly rewarding. We will work hard this year ,but will learn a lot in the process. We will be reading some rich literature through novels and short stories, and many non fiction selections throughout the year. You will have weekly homework sheets that you will receive on Mondays and will be due the following Monday. Parents please sign up for the "Remind App" when it comes home. This will help you stay up to date on homework, tests, and announcements for ELA. Please feel free to contact me any time there are questions. The best way to contact me is email which I check throughout the day. Please allow one to two days for response.

Course Description

Seventh grade English Language Arts class will provide students with a deeper understanding of reading and writing. Many of the projects and writing assignments are cross-curricular with science, social studies, and reading. **Students will keep a writing portfolio for ongoing work to prepare for the TnReady writing assessment this year. The class will also prepare them for part two of the TnReady assessment in April.** This provides practice in writing for different purposes in school and in life. Literature and informational texts are used to explore the various genres of writing and to enhance students' understanding of good writing. Grammars skills are reinforced through Daily Grammar Practice, grammar games, and writing practice. **Honors students are required to process 7th grade curriculum in a more in depth manner. Increasing rigor not necessarily amount of work. Increasing rigor will expose students to new ideas, skills, and concepts that allow for academic growth.**

Standards:

To access our standards please use the following URL, and keep the attached one page overview.

<http://www.tn.gov/education/article/english-language-arts-standards>

General Pacing:

- The academic year is divided into four 9-week modules. Each module includes the reading of complex texts, writing to texts, and a research in response to text.
- **Reading of complex texts** includes at least one text of length and 3-5 short texts with multiple readings (including literature and informational text).
- **Writing in response to texts** includes routine writings to develop argumentative, informative, explanatory, and narrative non-fiction essays.
- **Research in response to text:** to integrate knowledge from sources when composing.
- Additionally, **speaking and listening skills** are taught in each module.
- Five A Day sheets will be given weekly for homework and students can get help from outside sources, peers, internet, books, Help Sheet, and teacher on panther pause days.

Course Requirements: Language Arts lessons will be implemented using the following strategies:

- Test prep questions for bell ringers daily.
- Writing prompt practice.

HOMEWORK

* **Weekly Five-A-Day or grammar practice sheets will be given weekly (usually Mondays) for homework, and students can get help from outside sources or reference sheets given in class.**

- Parents and students will have the opportunity to sign up for the "Remind" app that I use to communicate homework and other announcements.

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Materials Requirements:

- pencils
- 1-2 blue or black pens
- Colored pencils
- one 1" three-ring binder
- loose-leaf notebook paper
- Post-it or sticky notes
- 3 hole pencil pouch (recommended)
- 5 Pack of dividers with labels.

Texts

- *Prentice Hall Literature, 7th Grade Edition*
- *Glencoe Writer's Choice, 7th Grade Edition*

Hyperlinks to State Standards and Competencies:

<http://www.tn.gov/education/article/english-language-arts-standards>

Grades:

Grades are taken for daily work, homework, quizzes, tests, writing projects, and group work. Because daily homework is designed for practicing skills which will be reviewed the next day, late homework is not accepted and a zero is given. Projects are planned in such a way that students have sufficient time to complete if they follow the given schedule.

Grades continued

Assignments are given specific point values and are weighted in the following way:

40% Formative Assessments (Daily work, homework,)

60% Summative Assessments (Test, Quizzes,)

***Percentages will change if TCAP is added.**

Knox County Grade Scale

- **A** 93-100
- **B** 65-92
- **C** 75-84
- **D** 70-74
- **F** 0-69

Explanation of Assignments and Due Dates

Descriptions and due dates for all assignments will be found on the daily agenda board in class. **Reminders for homework, quizzes, test will be sent out through Remind 101.**

Retake of quizzes or test: On certain test and quizzes I will give the option to students that fail a quiz to retake the quiz. Students must get the retake work from me then complete it by a certain date in order to retake their quiz or test. I will post on Aspen when the retakes are available.

Make-up and Late Work Policy

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After absences, students are given three days from the day they missed to complete assignments. **Other late work may or may not be accepted on an individual basis.** Opportunities to make-up tests will be provided before and after school and need to be scheduled with me. Points will be deducted from unexcused late work. **I will not take**

late work, not make-up work, after ten days. Please check Aspen for grade updates weekly and send me an email if you are not sure why your student has missing work. I do have students bring home a quick letter if they choose not to complete work. This helps me keep parents informed.

Teacher Communication

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. The quickest way to contact me is via email; I usually check it three times a day. **Crystal.moore@knoxschools.org** I will also use the Aspen class pages to send class news. If you see a lot of "Reflection" sheets coming home to be signed that means your child is not completing work in my class which could result in a failing grade. Please do not leave messages on my classroom phone. Remember the best way to contact me is through email.

Classroom Code of Conduct

In order to foster an appropriate positive learning atmosphere, students will adhere to the following code:

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Ready for class
- Be Reliable
- Be a role model

***Students will fill out a missing assignment sheet each time they do not have a completed assignment. In the event your child does not return them signed you will receive and email or phone call. This is my way of communicating when students are not completing work.**

Possible Fiction and Nonfiction for Class Study:

See Attached List...

Videos/Websites

Videos or video clips that may be used include but are not limited to:

- *A Christmas Carol (Disney version and older versions)*
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963*
- *Monsters are Due on Maple Street*
- *Clips from Teacher Tube*
- *Selected you tube educational clips*
- *CNN.com and New York Times*
- *Newsela*
- *Rhetoric.com*
- *Vale Middle School Articles*
- *Commonlit.com*
- *The Giver*
- *Twilight Zone movies*

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Statement concerning the option of alternatives for material deemed objectionable by parent/student:

*If you do not approve of a specific outside resource listed in this syllabus, please make your request to me in writing and an alternative assignment and/or materials will be provided. The request should include your name, the student's name, the specific activity/materials in which you do not want your child to participate or to which you do not want them exposed, and the nature of your objection. A form is available on the class web page.

Plagiarism

According to *Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition*: "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;
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. Parents should be involved in making the decision. **Board Policy I-431 Issued: 7/95 Revised 6/08**

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion—and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective, and respectful manner in accordance with the following:

- Music, art, literature, or drama with a religious theme or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs, provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
- The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature, and history shall be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies shall never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs.
- Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to express religious belief or nonbelief in compositions, art forms, music, speech, and debate.

How to contact me:

The best way to reach me is by email at crystal.moore@knoxschools.org. My plan time is 11:00-1:00. Conferences must be scheduled.

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Please sign and return bottom portion.

I have read and understand the course syllabus for 7th grade Language Arts

Student Name (print)	Student Signature	Date
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I have read and reviewed my student's course syllabus for 7th grade Language Arts.

Parent Name (print)	Parent Signature	Date
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Best Contact during the day: _____

Email Address _____

****This syllabus is a guide and is subject to change to better accommodate class and individual needs. Students and parents will be notified of any changes.***

Short Stories and Excerpts

1. "Seventh Grade" (p. 290)
2. from *The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks* (p. 9)
3. "Three Century Woman" (p. 11)
4. from *The Great Fire* (p. 19)
5. "Rikki Tikki Tavi"
6. "The Treasure of Lemon Brown" (p. 205)
7. "Papa's Parrot" (p. 26)
8. "After Twenty Years" (p. 372)
9. *Sorry, Wrong Number* (play; p. 727)
10. *The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street* (teleplay; p. 834)
11. "The Lottery" (pdf copy)
12. "The Gift of the Magi"
13. "The Necklace"
14. from *Freedom Walkers* (p. 413)
15. "The People Could Fly" (p. 1010)
16. "MK"

Poetry

17. "The Ballad of Birmingham"
18. "Mother to Son" (p. 612)
19. "The Highwayman" (p. 630)
20. "Annabel Lee" p. 668
21. "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" (p. 678)
22. "Martin Luther King (p. 670)
23. "I'm Nobody" (p. 672)
24. "The Cremation of Sam McGee"(p. 542)
25. "I Could Not Stop for Death"
26. "Hope is the Thing With Feathers"
27. "All That Glitters is not Gold"
28. "Ambitions Trail"
29. "My Ambition"
30. "Oranges"
31. "The Road Not Taken"
32. "Fire and Ice"
33. "The Rose That Grew From Concrete"
34. "NikkiRosa"
35. "Happiness"
36. "The Chase" (memoir)
37. "The Bridge"
38. "Thank You Mam"

Nonfiction

39. "The Fall of the Hindenburg" (p. 20)
40. "Mongoose on the Loose" (p. 283)
41. "Indian Grey Mongoose" (p. 285)
42. "Do Parrots Like Rocky (p. 29)
43. "Understand Language?" (p. 29)
44. "Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* Radio Interview (p.815)
45. Many Faces of Scrooge (p. 800)
46. "The Harlem Renaissance (p.1001)
47. Excerpt from diary entry prior to dropping the bomb/Harry Truman
48. King Solomon Excerpt from Proverbs
49. Christopher Columbus/ Excerpt from diary regarding trip to America
50. Excerpt from The Diary of Anne Frank
51. Abraham Lincoln "The Gettysburg Address"
52. Martin Luther King, Jr. "I Have A Dream"
53. Steve Jobs "Speech from Stanford Commencement"
54. Many other articles and speeches from Newsela
55. Commonlit.com

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Novels

1. *The Young Traveler's Gift*
2. *A Christmas Carol* (novella)
3. *The Giver*
4. *A Long Walk to Water*
5. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*
6. *I Am Malala*
7. *Touching Spirit Bear*
8. *The Outsiders*

7A Language Arts

