

English Language Arts Course Syllabus

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Team 7B

Room 408

Welcome to Gresham Middle School! I am delighted to have your child in my English Language Arts Class this year. We have an exciting schedule planned, and I am looking forward to meeting you!

Course Overview

Description:

In 7th Grade English Language Arts, we will continue to build our English language arts skills, through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This course will encourage students to use a wide range of communication skills including those involved in written and oral English containing the following: organization and development of effective communication, grammar, punctuation, vocabulary, spelling and personal voice. Students will have ample opportunity for growth in the area of reading through use of the short stories, novels, nonfiction texts, and hands-on activities.

Objectives:

- *Develop complex writing skills*
- *Constructively critique his/her own and other's writing*
- *Apply punctuation, grammar, and syntax skills*
- *Recognize and apply grade appropriate vocabulary*
- *Read with fluency, with focus on comprehension*
- *Deliver a presentation/speech using speaking/listening skills*
- *Use research skills to complete a long-term project and deliver findings*

Expectations and Guidelines:

1. *Submit all assignments on time.*
2. *Complete all required readings.*
3. *Keep track of and log all daily assignments in assignment folder.*
4. *Arrive to class on time.*
5. *Be Prepared.*
6. *Participate in class discussions and activities.*
7. *Have Respect for yourself, your peers, and your teacher.*
8. *Be Positive!*

Library: Students will go to the GMS School Library on a regular basis to check out books. Additionally, I have a classroom library available for student use. Most of the class library books are donations; if you do not approve of any materials your student is reading, please contact me immediately.

Plagiarism

When presenting someone else's ideas, research, or opinions, even if it has been rephrased, one must properly cite the original author to avoid plagiarism (Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition). Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students found guilty of plagiarism will engage in an academic conference with parents/guardians and the teacher. Students will be required to redo the assignment within a specified time period.

Grading Policy:

Exceeding Expectations.	93 – 100
Meeting Expectations	92 – 85
Approaching Expectations ...	84 – 75
Attempting Expectations	74 – 70
Insufficient Evidence	69 – 0

Materials:

- *Pencil (daily)*
- *Notebook paper (daily)*
- *Blue 3-brad folder with pockets. (Used for keeping track of daily work and assignments)*
- *Composition notebook (Used for writing portfolio)*

Textbook and Other Materials*:

- *Excerpts from I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World, by Malala Yousafzai*
- **Possible Movie/Clip Selections:** The Clinton 12 Documentary, TED Talks, Twilight Zone episode of “Monsters are Due on Maple Street,” and The Giver movie.

Make-Up Work Policy/Late Work Policy:

I use the policy concerning excused and unexcused absences in the agenda established by Knox County. If extra time is needed for make-up work due to an extended absence, please come to me to discuss. It is the **responsibility of the student** to contact me about missing work. In the event the student has prior knowledge that he/she will be absent, the student should come during homeroom to receive work in advance.

Religion in the Curriculum

Knox County Board policy states:

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:

1. 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;
2. 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; and
3. 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 non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech and debate.

* If you do not approve of a specific 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 child'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.

