

# MERIT Seventh Grade Honors Language Arts Syllabus

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## Course description:

Seventh Grade Honors Language Arts centers on reading, researching, writing, analyzing, and speaking.

## Course requirements:

Maintain a Language Arts interactive notebook with daily notes, vocabulary, study guides, writing assignments, DGP, and research material.

## Homework expectations:

Students will be assigned homework on a regular basis. Students are expected to complete and turn in all homework assignments on time.

## Behavioral expectations:

Students will be expected to follow all classroom and school-wide rules as dictated by student handbook.

## Grading:

- 10% Daily
- 35% Tests
- 20% Quizzes
- 35% Projects/Final Drafts

## Major Projects for the year:

Students will have projects, some technology based, due throughout the year. These projects will be based on assigned readings and/or other topics. In addition to these projects, each student will be required to complete one research project per nine weeks.

## Course Outline:

### First nine weeks

**Title:** What Science Fiction and Fantasy Can Teach Us about Ourselves

**Novel:** *The Hobbit*, J. R. R. Tolkien

**Supplemental Text:** *The Martian Chronicles*, Ray Bradbury, selected science fiction short stories: “—And the Moon Be Still as Bright”, “The Martian” (other various poems, text, and informational articles will be utilized)

**Writing Focus:** Informational

**Speaking and Language**

### Second nine weeks

**Title:** Demonstrating Character

**Novel:** *The Long Walk to Freedom*, Nelson Mandela

**Supplemental Text:** *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, by Maya Angelou (other various poems, text, and informational articles will be utilized)

**Writing Focus:** Informative/Explanatory

**Speaking and Language**

### **Third nine weeks**

**Title:** Adapting to Survive

**Novel:** *Call of the Wild*, Jack London

**Supplemental Text:** “The Cremation of Sam McGee” by Robert W. Service (other various poems, text, and informational articles will be utilized)

**Writing Focus:** Argumentative

**Speaking and Language**

### **Fourth nine weeks**

**Title:** Burning Bridges – What History Has Taught Us

**Novel:** *While the World Watched*, Carolyn Maull McKinstry

**Supplemental Text:** “Letter from Birmingham Jail”, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
*The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963* (selected chapters) Christopher Paul Curtis and  
*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (selected chapters) Mildred D. Taylor (other various poems, text, and informational articles will be utilized)

**Writing Focus:** Argumentative/Informational/Explanatory

**Speaking and Language**

\*\*\* Novels are subject to change

### **On-Going Assignments:**

- Daily Grammar Practice (DGP) each week; quiz after every three weeks
- Timed Readings
- AR/Independent Reading (at least two AR tests/non-AR book reports per nine weeks)
- Reading Check Quizzes (given after at-home reading is assigned)
- Novel/Text Tests and Quizzes
- Vocabulary Quizzes
- Various Genres of Writing (some short, some extended, some timed)

\*\* According to the TCMS Make-Up Work Policy, work turned in late will be penalized 10 points. All missing work will be given a zero after the five-day grace period.