

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:

30% Daily

30% Quizzes

40% Projects/Final Drafts/Test

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 may be required to an independent research project each 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: 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

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: Demonstrating Character

Novel: *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*, Gayle Tzemach Lemmon

Writing Focus: Informative/Explanatory

Speaking and Language

*** Order of novels and novels themselves are subject to change

On-Going Assignments:

- Daily Grammar Practice (DGP) each week; quiz after every three weeks
- Independent Reading (with one project per nine weeks)
- Reading Check Quizzes (given after at-home reading is assigned)
- Dialectical Journals
- Novel/Text Tests and Quizzes
- Writing Assignments
- Vocabulary Tests
- Google Classroom Constructed Response Assignments
- 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.