

# **PETERS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **CORE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE (CBK)**

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **GRADE 7**

For each of the sections that follow, students may be required to understand, apply, analyze, evaluate or create the particular concepts being taught.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Language Arts 7 provides a comprehensive study in the area of grammar, the six-step writing process, mythology, research, drama, poetry, and the novel. It is an integrated program stressing reading, writing, and presentation skills:

**READING:** Throughout the course, students read myths, plays, poetry, and a novel. As each reading genre is studied, emphasis is placed on vocabulary, comprehension, and the specific structure of the genre. In addition, students participate in an independent reading program, *Reading Counts!*, which stresses choice of genre and the student's responsibility for completing several books and taking computerized tests for each.

**WRITING:** After a study of the six-step writing process and various grammar concepts, students complete writing projects throughout the remainder of the course. In each major unit studied (except the novel), a writing project and a continued study of grammar are completed. Additionally, students will be introduced to the three-prong thesis statement and proper structure for the five-paragraph essay.

**PRESENTATIONS:** An oral presentation component is included in most of the major units. Presentations range from formal, independent speeches to graded, group discussions. At times, students will present independently; at other times, students may have the option to work with a smaller number of classmates to develop and give a group presentation.

#### **STUDY SKILLS**

- Five paragraph essay with thesis statement
- Various other types of writing, such as poetry, script, and short-answer
- Parts of speech; comma rules
- Self-proofreading/editing/revising writing
- Story structure and dramatic structure
- Research process
- Literary and poetic devices
- Presentation skills

#### **MAJOR UNIT THEMES**

##### **1. CONVENTIONS: GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION**

- Review of parts of speech
- Practice identifying parts of speech and functions of words within writing
- Introduction of comma rules
- Practice proper use of punctuation

- Practice editing personal work and peers' work

## **2. PROCESS OF WRITING**

- Baseline writing piece
- Introduction of thesis statement
- Review and application of six step writing process
- Review and application of PSSA Domains of Writing
- Introduction and application of self-evaluation

## **3. MYTHOLOGY**

- Introduce the types and purposes of myths
- Identify/explain major gods, goddesses, and stories from Greek mythology
- Define elements of plot through use of Freytag's Pyramid
- Analyze myths for elements of plot

## **4. POETRY**

- Identification and use of various poetic devices
- Exposure to various types of poetry
- Writing poetry
- Presentation of personal poetry

## **5. RESEARCH**

- Application of research process
- Correctly structure appropriate thesis statement
- Apply components of thesis to research project
- Present research
- Provide feedback to peers regarding research

## **6. DRAMA**

- Presentations of monologues
- Elements of drama: act, scene, aside, stage directions, dialogue
- Dramatization of various short plays
- Script writing using elements of drama and Freytag's Pyramid
- Introduction to Shakespeare's life, theatre, and the question of authorship
- Dramatic reading of adapted Shakespearean play

## **7. NOVEL**

- Civil War based historical fiction
- Elements of plot
- Independent note taking and sharing
- Literary devices: point of view, theme, characterization, conflict
- Small and large group discussions

**MATERIALS (and supplemental materials used in course):**

- Teacher-created packets: parts of speech, commas, writing process, mythology, poetry, drama
- Writing and Grammar, Myths and Legends from Ancient Greece and Around the World, Greek Myths and Legends, Across Five Aprils, Who Comes With Canons?, Soldier's Heart
- The Taming of the Shrew, A Midsummer Night's Dream (movie clips and text)

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