



# Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

## 7th Grade English Language Arts - Honors Mrs. Shandi N. Silk

<b>Teacher Contact Information</b>	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:snsilk@madisoncity.k12.al.us">snsilk@madisoncity.k12.al.us</a> <b>Classroom Phone:</b> 256-430-0001 ext. 83231
<b>Classroom Digital Platforms</b>	<b>Webpage Link:</b> <b>Schoology Link:</b> <a href="#">Distribution List Link</a>
<b>Textbook Information</b>	<i>Mirrors and Windows - Level III</i> , EMC Publishing - This text will be used as a supplemental resource.
<b>Course Description</b>	7th Grade Honors Language Arts is an accelerated learning environment, which requires students to work more independently in class and at home. Students are required to read at and above grade-level texts independently and at an accelerated pace. Along with this, the grammar and writing are also learned and practiced at and above grade level to prepare students for 8th grade Honors Language Arts. Standards for this class are based on the 7th Grade Language Arts Alabama College and Career Ready Standards. These standards are focused on reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language. The reading standards will require students to read and analyze a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts to determine how literary devices interact, identify central themes, examine author's craft, and support these findings with textual evidence. Students will be guided through the research and writing process to produce writing in the narrative, expository, and persuasive modes along with guiding and implementing the Madison City writing curriculum, Claim-Data-Commentary. In addition, students will engage effectively in a variety of collaborative discussions and adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks along with building on and responding to the ideas of others. Outside reading and summer reading are required.
<b>Course Objectives</b>	Students will develop and strengthen critical thinking skills by reading, comprehending, and engaging with both literary and informational texts. Students will make text-to-text, text-to-world, and text-to-self connections. Students will be able to identify, define, and duplicate examples of figurative language found in texts. They will demonstrate their understanding of the text through various formative and summative assessments. Students will display the convergence of their independent thoughts and textual examples in the writing of paragraphs and essays, as well as develop clear and concise writing skills through the execution of writing assignments and the application of proofreading and editing skills. Students will also improve their writing through the increased understanding and application of grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary skills. Students will be able to respectfully engage critically and constructively in a dialogue of ideas through class discussion, small group assignments, and project-based learning. Students will develop and display clear written and verbal communication skills.
<b>Course Outline</b>	<b>Unit 1: Summer Reading Wrap Up (Flipped)</b> <b>Unit 2: <i>Wednesday Wars</i> by Gary Schmidt, Short Stories, &amp; Narrative Writing</b> <b>Unit 3: Narrative Poetry &amp; Figurative Devices</b> <b>Unit 4: Drama: <i>The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street</i></b> <b>Unit 5: Victorian Era Research &amp; <i>Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol</i></b> <b>Unit 6: Nonfiction &amp; Informational Texts &amp; <i>I am Malala</i></b> <b>Unit 7: Poetry &amp; Poetic Devices</b> <b>Unit 8: ACAP Prep &amp; Review</b> <b>Unit 9: Dystopian Literature Circles (<i>Matched, The Selection, &amp; Uglies</i>)</b> <b>*This is subject to change!*</b>
<b>Classroom Expectations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be respectful and be responsible!</li> <li>2. Be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. Students tardy to class will receive a detention per LMS policy.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Come prepared for class. Bring all necessary supplies, including homework.</li> <li>4. Respect your teacher, your classmates, and yourself.</li> <li>5. Listen and follow directions.</li> <li>6. If it's not yours, don't touch it. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. If you break something of mine, be prepared to replace it. This also applies to school technology.</li> <li>7. Follow all school rules.</li> <li>8. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell.</li> </ol>
<b>Progressive Discipline</b> <i>(LMS Policy)</i>	<b>Step 1:</b> Verbal warning <b>Step 2:</b> Student/teacher conference <b>Step 3:</b> Parent contact/conference <b>Step 4:</b> Detention and a parent contact <b>Step 5:</b> Office referral  *Please refer to the Social Contract for further guidance.
<b>Grading Policy</b> <i>(MCS Policy)</i>	<b>60%</b> = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) <b>40%</b> = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)
<b>Late Work Policy</b>	I will accept late work up to 1 week late. Each day late is a 10% deduction of the final grade. Please communicate with me in advance if there is an extenuating circumstance. I am here to help and work with you!
<b>Make-up Work/Test Policy</b>	Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up all work within three days of returning to school. It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work. Students can get with a classmate or ask the teacher for help. Work that is not made up will become a zero (including quizzes/tests). Many times, missed quizzes and tests can be made up during school.  Students may retake tests for up to an 85%. It is the student's responsibility to contract with me and set up a time(s) to review the material, ask questions, and retake. Students are expected to study for 48 hours following a test grade of an 84% or lower. Retakes will take place BEFORE school.
<b>Technology</b>	Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.
<b>Accommodations</b>	Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.
<b>Turnitin Notice</b> <b>(ELA Classes only)</b>	The majority of writing assignments in this course will be submitted to Turnitin via the Schoology learning platform. The primary focus of this software is to help students become better writers and scholars. Turnitin generates a report on the originality of student writing by comparing it with a database of periodicals, books, online content, student papers, and other published work. This program will help students discern when they are using sources fairly, citing properly, and paraphrasing effectively—skills essential to all academic work.  Students will have the opportunity to review their Turnitin originality report and will have the opportunity to make revisions before submitting their work for grading. Once their work is submitted, teachers have the opportunity to view the student's originality report and grade accordingly.
<b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	Please refer to the Liberty Middle School supply list.
<b>Homework</b>	During novel studies, students are expected to read outside of class. Excluding novel studies, homework is rarely assigned. It is typically either an extension of the day's lesson and/or complete in class work when needed. Students are expected to complete long term projects outside of class.
<b>Parent &amp; Student Acknowledgment Form</b>	Please check the box on the distribution list sign up to indicate that you have read and understand this syllabus.

