ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7
Syllabus

Discovery Middle School

1304 Hughes Road

Madison, AL 35758

Teacher:	Ms. Megan Wilson
Email:	mewilson@madisoncity.k12.al.us
Class Webpage:	https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/1391
Phone Number:	256-837-3735 ext. 82300

Course Description:	<u>On-Level:</u> To help students prepare for college and future careers, the foundation for 7th Grade Language Arts stems from the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards for incoming 7th graders who will eventually progress to 8th Grade Language Arts. The content standards focus on four specific areas: reading, writing, speaking/listening, and language. In 7th Grade, students will have the opportunity to develop specific skills that will progress throughout their middle and high school careers. The reading standards concern students analyzing literature and informational text. Through this analysis, they will determine how literary devices interact, identify central themes, examine the author's craft, and support their findings with textual evidence. In writing, students will construct clear and coherent writing in the basic modes – narrative, expository, and persuasive – while being supported through the writing process. In addition, they will be guided through the research process. According to the listening and speaking content standards, learners will engage effectively in collaborative discussions and presentations. Students will adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks along with analyzing the ideas of others. Lastly, within the language core, a command of Standard English conventions, when writing and speaking will be demonstrated, along with the acquisition of general academic and domain specific words. Outside reading and summer reading are required. <u>Honors:</u> To help students prepare for college and future careers, the foundation for 7th Grade Language Arts stems from the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards for incoming 7th graders who will eventually progress to 8th Grade Honors Language Arts. The content standards focus on four specific areas: reading, writing, speaking / listening, and language. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and collaborative strategies are used purposefully to build knowledge and skills and to help students become independent readers, writers, and thinkers as they continue to progressively build the skills necessary for academic success. In addition, they will be guided through the research process. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content, and develop academic habits of mind. Outside reading and summer reading are required. Additional information for this course can be found on the Alabama Department of Education website. State standards can be found at Alex.state.al.us
Course Objectives:	1. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently. 2. Write routinely over extended time frames and shorter time frames for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. 3. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. 4. Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.

Classroom Expectations:	Classroom Rules and Procedures:
	    1. Maintain a positive and respectful attitude.
	    2. Be responsible and organized.
	    3. Be kind and respectful to others.
	    4. Set high expectations for yourself.
	    5. Be accountable for your actions and your learning.

Textbook:	McGraw Hill StudySync Grade 7 is available for use within the classroom. For at-home access, all students will have a StudySync app on their Chromebooks; the app is also available for their personal devices such as cell phones. Their English teacher will be able to provide an access code. The app can be used without internet access. StudySync Grade 7 ISBN: 978-1949-739-176
Grading:	Test grades will account for 60% of the 9-weeks grade, with the remaining (40%) being determined by quiz/daily grades. The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (65-69), and F (below 65). Grades will be a reflection of mastery of the standards. Make sure all absences are excused as work can be made up and graded for excused absences only. Any work that is not submitted will receive a grade of 0 until it is turned in and graded. It will also be noted with "missing" in the gradebook. Late work is graded at the teacher's discretion.
Make-up Work:	Under normal circumstances, it is expected that students will submit previously assigned work upon return to school after an excused absence. All work missed on the day(s) of excused absences must be made up within three school days of returning. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure he or she makes up work following excused absences. Students will not receive credit for and will not be allowed to make up any assignments, tests, work, activities, etc., missed during unexcused absences. (DMS 2022-2023 Student Handbook)

Late Work:	For work turned in late, the following policy will apply:
	● The assignment will drop one LETTER grade for each school day that passes. For example, if an assignment is turned in one school day late, the highest a student can receive is 89%; two days late, 79%, etc.
	    ○ 1 day late = maximum credit 89%
	    ○ 2 days late = maximum credit 79%
	    ○ 3 days late = maximum credit 69%
	    ○ 4 days late = maximum credit 59%
	    ○ 5 days late = maximum credit 50%
	● Half credit is always better than no credit! Until work has been made up, "Missing" (which counts as a zero) will be put in the grade book. This will be updated once work is completed and turned in.

Accommodations:	Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.
Turnitin Notice:	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.
Technology	Concerning laptop utilization: 1. Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. 2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. 3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. 4. Laptops will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher and should be brought to school daily.
Materials and Supplies:	● Loose Leaf Paper ● 1 set of Tab Dividers ● Assorted Highlighters ● Sticky Notes ● Index Cards ● Pencils/Pens ● Class novels ○ Novels are TBA and students will need to access these titles at home. Students will need to purchase a physical or electronic copy, or they can borrow a copy from the library.

36 Week Plan *Subject to Change		
*Grammar practiced weekly		
Week	On-Level	Honors
1	Course Introduction and Expectations	Course Introduction and Expectations
2	Summer Reading Unit	Summer Reading Unit
3	Summer Reading Unit	Summer Reading Unit
4	Descriptive Writing Unit	Descriptive Writing Unit
5	Novel Study	Novel Study
6	Novel Unit	Novel Unit
7	Novel Unit	Novel Unit
8	Novel Unit	Novel Unit
9	Creative Reading/Writing Unit	Creative Reading/Writing Unit
10	Creative Reading/Writing Unit	Creative Reading/Writing Unit
11	Creative Reading/Writing Unit	Creative Reading/Writing Unit
12	Research/Informational Text Unit	Research/Informational Text Unit
13	Novel Unit	Novel Unit

14	Novel Unit	Novel Unit
15	Novel Unit	Novel Unit
16	Writing Unit	Writing Unit
17	Midterm Review	Midterm Review
18	Midterm Exam	Midterm Exam
19	Research Project	Research Project
20	Research Project	Research Project
21	Research Project	Novel Unit
22	Novel Unit	Novel Unit
23	Novel Unit	Writing Unit
24	Novel Unit	Writing Unit
25	Writing Unit	Socratic Seminar
26	Writing Unit	Socratic Seminar
27	Independent Nonfiction Book Study	Independent Nonfiction Book Study
28	Arguments and Rhetoric Unit	Arguments and Rhetoric Unit
29	Arguments and Rhetoric Unit	Arguments and Rhetoric Unit
30	Spring Testing Preparation	Spring Testing Preparation
31	Spring Testing	Spring Testing
32	Literature Circles	Literature Circles
33	Literature Circles	Literature Circles
34	Literature Circles	Literature Circles
35	Finals Review	Finals Review
36	Final Exam	Final Exam