



Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

7th Grade English Language Arts Ms. Maria White

Teacher Contact Information	Email: mcwhite@madisoncity.k12.al.us Classroom Phone: 256-430-0001
Classroom Digital Platforms	Webpage Link: https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/2093 Distribution List Link: https://forms.gle/wFFtes7J4vw37ARd7
Textbook Information	<i>Mirrors and Windows - Level III</i> , EMC Publishing - This text will be used as a supplemental resource.
Course Description	To prepare students for college and future careers, the 7th Grade Language Arts curriculum stems directly from the 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 the 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.
Course Objectives	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.
Course Outline	Term 1/First 9 Weeks: Summer Reading Review (<i>The Crossover</i> novel); Short story Unit; <i>Flipped</i> Novel Study; Narrative writing; Parts of speech review; Punctuation review; vocabulary skills Term 2/Second 9 Weeks: Drama; Narrative Poetry; Persuasive Writing; Intro to research; <i>A Christmas Carol</i> Drama; phrases/clauses; vocabulary skills Term 3/Third 9 Weeks: Nonfiction/Informational Texts; <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> ; Informational Writing; Sentence Types; S-V Agreement; Research; vocabulary skills Term 4/Fourth 9 Weeks: Poetry; <i>Black Brother</i> ; <i>Black Brother</i> ; ACAP review; dangling/misplaced modifiers; vocabulary skills <i>*This is subject to change.</i>
Classroom Expectations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be on time, be prepared, be responsible for yourself. 2. Respect yourself, respect others, and respect the classroom. 3. Read the board and begin working when you enter the classroom. 4. Stay in one spot during instruction. 5. Participate and collaborate. 6. Leave the room better than before.
Progressive Discipline (LMS Policy)	Step 1: Verbal warning Step 2: Student/teacher conference

	<p>Step 3: Parent contact/conference Step 4: Detention and a parent contact Step 5: Office referral</p>
Grading Policy (MCS Policy)	<p>60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) 40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation) **ELA Testing days are Tuesdays and Thursdays. All major tests will be given on these days and will be announced at least a week in advance. No extra credit work will be given due to missing work, late work, etc.</p>
Late Work Policy	<p>Late work is accepted with a penalty of 10% of every week it is late. After three weeks, students can only score up to a 65%. I will not accept late work after the nine-week term is over. Please communicate with me in advance if there is an extenuating circumstance. I am here to help and work with you!</p>
Make-up Work/Test Policy	<p>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 who score below a 65% on a test are eligible for a re-take. However, students may not score higher than an 85% on their second test.</p>
Technology	<p>Please bring your school-assigned laptop with you to class daily. 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.</p>
Accommodations	<p>Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.</p>
Turnitin Notice	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Materials & Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 ½' binder (shared with Math) • Loose-leaf paper • Sticky notes • Highlighters • Composition notebook • Pencils/pens • Dividers: 5 tab dividers <p>We will read several novels this year. It is NOT required that you purchase these, but it is suggested. Please do not read these books ahead of time if you purchase one! Links are provided for a purchase option.</p> <p><i>Flipped</i> by Wendelin van Draanen : Amazon Link <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> by Linda Sue Park: Amazon Link <i>Black Brother, Black Brother</i> by Jewell Parker Rhodes: Amazon Link</p>
Homework	<p>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 work that had not been completed in class. Students are expected to complete long-term projects outside of class.</p>

**Parent & Student
Acknowledgment Form**

Please check the box on the distribution list sign-up to indicate that you have read and understand this syllabus. <https://forms.gle/19Hv7HQfZ7sjMVWY8>

This syllabus is subject to change, without notice, at teacher discretion.