



Journey Middle School

217 Celtic Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

7th Grade English Language Arts - Honors

Ms. Maria White

Teacher Contact Information	Email: mcwhite@madisoncity.k12.al.us Classroom Phone: 256-464-8370 ext. 84224
Classroom Digital Platforms	Schoology Link: https://madisoncity.schoology.com/home#!/?_k=0b417t Distribution List Link: https://forms.gle/z4G1NgBU1pBH4aTh7
Textbook Information	McGraw-Hill StudySync Reading and Writing Companion - This text will be used as a supplemental resource.
Course Description	<p>7th Grade Honors Language Arts is an accelerated learning environment that requires students to work more independently in class and at home. Students must read at and above grade-level texts independently and acceleratedly. 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 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 various collaborative discussions and adapt speech to various contexts and tasks, along with building on and responding to the ideas of others. Outside reading and summer reading are required.</p>
Course Objectives	<p>By the course's end, students will independently and analytically read fiction and nonfiction texts at and above grade level. They will identify and analyze literary devices, central themes, and the author's craft with strong textual evidence. Additionally, students will demonstrate advanced writing skills, producing sophisticated narratives, expository pieces, and persuasive essays. They will engage in the writing process at and above grade level, preparing for 8th-grade Honors Language Arts. Guided instruction will develop their research proficiency, utilizing the Claim-Data-Commentary approach to construct compelling arguments. Students will actively participate in collaborative discussions, adapting speech to various contexts and tasks. They will demonstrate strong listening skills and thoughtful responses, fostering effective communication. The course fosters an accelerated learning environment, requiring independent work in class and at home. Students take responsibility for engaging with at and above grade-level texts, completing required outside reading and summer reading. These objectives align with 7th Grade Language Arts Alabama College and Career Ready Standards, providing a challenging and enriching experience for academic and professional growth.</p>
Course Outline	<p>Term 1/First 9 Weeks: Thematic focus: Perspective. Summer Reading Review (<i>Flipped</i> by Wendelin Van Draanen); Narrative writing; Parts of speech review; Punctuation review; Greek & Latin Roots; Summary Writing Strategies and CDC.</p> <p>Term 2/Second 9 Weeks: Thematic focus: Empathy. Nonfiction text structures; Literary devices; Rhetorical strategies; Point of view and purpose; Research writing; Sentence types; Subject-verb agreement.</p> <p>Term 3/Third 9 Weeks: Thematic focus: Effective Communication. Argumentative writing; Subject-verb agreement; Dangling & Misplaced Modifiers; Poetic Devices; ACAP Test Preparation</p> <p>Term 4/Fourth 9 Weeks: Thematic focus: Identity. Dystopian novels; Expository writing; Finals.</p> <p><i>*This is subject to change.</i></p>
Classroom Expectations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. 2. Come prepared for class. Bring all necessary supplies, including homework. 3. Respect your teacher, your classmates, and yourself.

	<p>4. Listen and follow directions.</p> <p>5. If it's not yours, don't touch it. If you break something, be prepared to replace it.</p> <p>6. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.</p> <p>6. Follow all school rules.</p>
Progressive Discipline (JMS Policy)	<p>Step 1: Verbal warning</p> <p>Step 2: Student/teacher conference</p> <p>Step 3: Parent contact/conference</p> <p>Step 4: Detention and a parent contact</p> <p>Step 5: Office referral</p>
Grading Policy (MCS Policy)	<p>60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects)</p> <p>40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)</p>
Late Work Policy	Late work is accepted with a penalty of 10% of every day it is late. 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!
Make-up Work/Test Policy	Students with excused absences can make up all work within three days of returning to school. It is the student's responsibility to ask for and/or schedule make-up work. After three days, any incomplete or missing work will become a zero (including quizzes/tests). All ELA tests will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
Technology	Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. 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.
Accommodations	Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.
Turnitin Notice	<p>Most 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 can view the student's originality report and grade accordingly.</p>
Materials & Supplies	<p>One 1-inch three-ring binder, loose-leaf notebook paper, pencils/pens, and assorted highlighters. Please bring your school-issued Chromebook and charger to class every day. You will also need headphones or earbuds with an auxiliary jack cord.</p> <p>We will read several novels this year. Please try your best to purchase a personal copy of each novel to annotate. Please do not read these novels ahead of time, except the summer reading novel.</p> <p><i>Flipped</i> by Wendelin van Draanen <i>I am Malala (Young Readers Edition)</i> by Malala Yousafezi <i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens</p> <p>Students will read ONE of the following texts for our literature circle unit: <i>Ender's Game</i> by Orson Scott Card <i>Uglies</i> by Scott Westerfeld <i>Matched</i> by Allie Condie <i>The Selection</i> by Kiera Cass</p>
Homework	Honors students will be required to read assigned novels outside of the classroom in preparation for in-class work, quizzes, and writing assignments. Homework is rarely assigned and will be an extension of work in the classroom to better assist students in meeting classroom objectives. Students are encouraged to study for tests/quizzes as homework and read outside novels as well.

**Parent & Student
Acknowledgment
Form**

Please indicate your understanding and agreement with the course syllabus by completing the form linked below.
<https://forms.gle/z4G1NgBU1pBH4aTh7>

