



Journey Middle School

217 Celtic Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

English Language Arts 7

Ms. Fleming

Teacher Contact Information

Email: krfleming@madisoncity.k12.al.us
Classroom Phone: 256-774-4695 ext. 84225

Classroom Digital Platforms

Webpage Link: [Honors ELA 7](#)
Distribution List Link: [Acknowledgement Form](#)
Schoology is used in this course. An access code will be provided as requested.

Textbook Information

McGraw-Hill StudySync Reading and Writing Companion - This text will be used as a supplemental resource. Additional online platforms will be used to support our learning as well in this class.

Required Novels

It is NOT required that you purchase these. You are welcome to purchase/provide your own copy, but if you do provide your own, it MUST be a hard copy novel.

Please do not read these novels ahead of time, except the summer reading novel.

Flipped by Wendelin van Draanen (summer reading)
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park
The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Students will read ONE of the following texts for our literature circle unit:

Before the Ever After by Jaqueline Woodson
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jaqueline Woodson
Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai

Writing Projects

Any writing assignment will be created in the student's Madison City Schools Google Drive using the Google Platform, which includes Google Docs, Google Slides, and Google Sheets.

Course Description

Language Arts 7 is based on the Alabama Course of Study Standards for 7th grade. Student learning will be focused on analyzing various texts, expressing personal views, supporting various points of view through various modes of writing, participating in thoughtful discussions, and practicing digital citizenship. The course helps transition students from a focus of building foundational literacy skills to the application of those skills in order to read and respond effectively to various types of literature.

Course Objectives

By the end of seventh grade ELA, students will effectively comprehend and analyze fiction and nonfiction texts, identifying literary devices and central themes with supporting textual evidence. Students will demonstrate writing proficiency in narrative, expository, and persuasive modes, employing the writing process for improved quality. Students will adeptly construct clear and well-supported claims using relevant data and insightful commentary in their writing. Through engaging in collaborative discussions, students will develop strong communication skills, adapt speech to different contexts and tasks, and actively respond to others' ideas. These objectives align with Alabama College and Career Ready Standards, equipping students with essential skills for academic and future professional success.

Course Outline

Unit 1: Summer reading
Unit 2: Short stories
Unit 3: *The Crossover*/Poetry

	Unit 4: Spooky stories/”The Monsters are Due on Maple Street” Unit 5: <i>Scrooge and Marley</i> Unit 6: Rhetorical appeals/irony Unit 7: <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> Unit 8: ACAP Prep Unit 9: Myths Unit 10: Lit Circles/novels in verse <i>*This is subject to change.</i>
Classroom Expectations	1. Be respectful. Respect yourselves, each other, visitors, Ms. Fleming, and the room. 2. Be in your seat and working when the bell rings. 3. Be silent and listening when someone else is speaking. 4. Follow directions the first time they are given. 5. Have all materials, supplies, and homework for class. **All Madison City and Journey Middle School expectations and rules will be followed at all time.**
Progressive Discipline Procedures	All progressive discipline will correspond with the Madison City Schools Code of Conduct regarding Class I and II offenses. Some Class II and all Class III offenses are a direct office referral. • Warning • Conference with student with parent notification • Parent Contact • Detention • Referral to administration for repeat Class I violations and initial Class II and III offenses---Consequences determined to be reasonable and appropriate by the school administration.
Electronic Communication Device Policy	Wireless Communication Devices A. Definitions 1. Instructional Day – • When school is open and in session: • During class time, lunch, transitions between classes, and any non-instructional periods; • Any time that students are required to store their Wireless Communication Devices under the Student Code of Conduct, or other school rules; or • Any other time, students are instructed to store their devices by school staff. 2. Wireless Communication Devices – Any portable electronic device that has the capability of exchanging voice, messaging, or other data communication with another electronic device, including, without limitation: • cellular telephones • tablet computers • laptop computers • pagers • gaming devices • smart watches • earphones or headphones (Air Pods, ear buds, over the ear headphones, etc., whether wireless or not) B. Possession of Wireless Communication Devices – Students are prohibited from bringing Wireless Communication Devices into school buildings and onto school grounds, except in compliance with this policy. The Board is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage to any Wireless Communication Device brought onto campus by a student. C. Storage of Devices– At all times during the Instructional Day, students who possess a Wireless Communication Device on any campus or in any school must turn the device off and store the Wireless Communication Device off their person in a locker, car, backpack, purse, gym bag, or other storage

	location approved by school administrators. This storage requirement is subject to the exceptions set out in subsection D below. D. Prohibition on Use; Exceptions – Students are prohibited from using, operating, or possessing a Wireless Communication Device during the Instructional Day, except under the following limited circumstances: • The use, operation, and/or possession of the device is specifically included in the student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or an Individualized Health Plan; • The use, operation, and/or possession of the device is for educational or learning purposes under the supervision of school personnel; and • The use, operation, and/or possession occur during an emergency threatening the life or safety of the student or another person. The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop additional guidelines for implementation of these exceptions. E. Searches – School officials may read, examine, or inspect the contents of any wireless communication device upon reasonable suspicion that the device contains evidence of a violation of Board policy, the Code of Conduct, or other school rules, provided that the nature and extent of such reading, examination, and inspection shall be reasonably related and limited to the suspected violation. F. Disciplinary Action – Any violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct. G. Additional Procedures Authorized – The Superintendent or designee is authorized to develop any additional rules necessary to carry out this policy.										
Grading Policy <i>(MCS Policy)</i>	60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) 40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation) <table> <tr> <th>Assessment Type</th><th>Point Value Range (60% category)</th></tr> <tr> <td>Semester Exam</td><td>100-120 Points</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unit Tests and Exams</td><td>65-100 points</td></tr> <tr> <td>Quizzes</td><td>10-65 Points</td></tr> <tr> <td>Projects/Essays</td><td>50-100 Points</td></tr> </table>	Assessment Type	Point Value Range (60% category)	Semester Exam	100-120 Points	Unit Tests and Exams	65-100 points	Quizzes	10-65 Points	Projects/Essays	50-100 Points
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Late Work Procedures	Students present in class on the day of instruction are expected to turn in all in-class and out-of-class assignments on time. Late work will be accepted up to 3 days after the initial due date, with a deduction of 10% each day it’s late. Late work will not be accepted after 3 days. Students must email the teacher upon submitting late work in order to receive credit.										
Make-up Work/Test Policy <i>(MCS Policy)</i>	Students are permitted to make up work, tests, and other assignments, activities, etc., when absences are excused. 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 absence(s) must be made up within three school days after returning to school. However, for extended excused absences when homebound services are not necessary, the teacher may grant additional time, but not to extend beyond two weeks past the return to school. It is the joint responsibility of student and parent to ensure a student makes up work following excused absences. Teachers may alter assignments, tests, work, activities, etc., as necessary to ensure an accurate evaluation of the student's performance after an excused absence. Students will not receive credit for and will not be allowed to make up any assignments, tests, work, activities, etc., missed during unexcused absences.										
Technology	Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. Discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices are not 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 teacher's individual discretion.
Cheating/Plagiarism	A student who cheats will not receive credit for the work in question. If any other student has cooperated in cheating, that student is also considered to have cheated and will not receive credit. Cheating students will also be subject to disciplinary consequences in Section XXII of this CSC. Cheating is defined to include, but is not limited to: (a) copying someone else's work in or out of class and identifying and submitting it as your own (b) failing to quote and/or list appropriate citations for material derived from published sources (including the Internet) and identifying and submitting it as your own (c) the use of unauthorized notes, other materials, or assistance during the accomplishment of graded work in or out of class (d) any other situation in which the student attempts to or accepts credit for work not his or her own.
Artificial Intelligence Acceptable Use Policy <i>(MCS Policy)</i>	Madison City Schools acknowledges that technology is ever-changing and has a tremendous impact on our global society, local community, and classrooms. Artificial intelligence (AI), including generative forms of AI, is becoming more a part of our everyday lives. It is our responsibility to educate and train students to utilize AI in an ethical and educational way. Therefore, Madison City Schools is not banning the student or teacher use of AI, but each student will need to be aware of the limitations and guidelines of its usage: a. Madison City Schools student email accounts and Chromebook access to specific open AI software, such as ChatGPT, are blocked due to data and security concerns. b. Any misuse of AI tools and applications, such as hacking or altering data, is strictly prohibited. c. Teachers may allow the use of AI for curriculum purposes. Access to specific websites will be granted on an as-needed basis, adhering to specific data and privacy guidelines regarding age restrictions and usage. d. College Board and Dual Enrollment college and university classes may have additional restrictions and limitations regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence. e. Students who use AI software with a personal device and/or personal credentials should do so at their own risk, acknowledging that each platform is collecting various forms of data. f. Students must acknowledge the use of AI in any capacity related to their schoolwork, including text, images, multimedia, etc. The use of AI could be subject to the Academic Dishonesty Policy. h. Students should acknowledge that AI is not always factually accurate, nor seen as a credible source, and should be able to provide evidence to support its claims.
Materials & Supplies	Loose Leaf Paper 1 - One inch three-ring binders Assorted Highlighters Pens/Pencils Sticky notes School Issued Chromebook Extra Chromebook Charger Headphones/earbuds with auxiliary jack (no wireless)
Homework	During novel studies, students may be asked to read outside of class. Excluding novel studies, homework is rarely assigned. It is typically an extension of the day's lesson and/or work not completed in class.
Parent & Student Acknowledgment Form	Please complete and indicate your understanding and agreement with the course syllabus. This will also serve as my distribution list sign up. You may use the direct link here: Acknowledgement Form