



Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

7th Grade English Language Arts - Honors

Mrs. Gray

Teacher Contact Information	Email: slampleygray@madisoncity.k12.al.us Classroom Phone: 256-430-0001 ext. 83230
Classroom Digital Platforms	Webpage Link: https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/liberty Schoology Link: https://madisoncity.schoology.com/ No Red Ink: https://www.noredink.com/ Common Lit: https://www.commonlit.org/en IReady: https://login.i-ready.com/ StudySync: https://apps.studysync.com -Other instructional materials are available in the Schoology platform.
Textbook Information	McGrawhill <i>StudySync Reading and Writing Companion</i> - This text will be used as a supplemental resource.
Course Description	<p>“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, 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 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” (Madison City Schools MS Course Catalog, p. 7)</p>
Course Objectives	<p>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.</p>
Course Outline	<p>Term 1/First 9 Weeks: Summer Reading Review (<i>Flipped</i> novel); short story unit; expository writing; <i>The Crossover</i>; Narrative writing; Parts of speech review; Punctuation review; vocabulary skills</p> <p>Term 2/Second 9 Weeks: Drama; argumentative writing; Intro to research; <i>A Christmas Carol</i>; phrases/clauses; vocabulary skills</p> <p>Term 3/Third 9 Weeks: Nonfiction/Informational Texts; Informational Writing; rhetorical appeals; Sentence Types; S-V Agreement; ACAP review; vocabulary skills</p> <p>Term 4/Fourth 9 Weeks: Literature Circles: Dystopian Novels; ACAP review; dangling/misplaced modifiers; vocabulary skills</p> <p><i>*This is subject to change.</i></p>

Classroom Expectations	<p>1 Cellphones must be powered down and in backpack from 8:15AM to 3:20PM.</p> <p>2. Be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. Students tardy to class will receive a detention per LMS policy.</p> <p>3. Come prepared for class. Bring all necessary supplies.</p> <p>4. Respect your teacher, your classmates, and yourself.</p> <p>5. If it's not yours, don't touch it. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.</p> <p>All students must follow the Madison City Schools Code of Conduct.</p>
Progressive Discipline (LMS Policy)	<p>Step 1: Verbal warning</p> <p>Step 2: Student/teacher conference; Social Contract Point deducted</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> <p>*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% off every week it is late. After 3 weeks, the highest grade awarded will be 65%. Late work will only be accepted until the end of the unit which is marked by the final assessment. Once a late assignment has been submitted, the student is responsible for filling out a form that is linked in Schoology to notify the teacher that it is completed.</p> <p>Please communicate with me in advance if there is an extenuating circumstance. I am here to help you and work with you!</p>
Make-up Work/ Test Policy	<p>-Students with excused absences will be allowed to make up all work <u>within three days of returning to school</u>. 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. Once a make-up assignment has been submitted, the student is responsible for filling out a form that is linked in Schoology to notify the teacher that it is completed.</p> <p>-Students who score below a 70% on a test are eligible to complete test corrections for half credit. Test corrections are due one week after test answers are returned to the student. (Test corrections exclude projects and essays for test grades as rubrics are given in advance.)</p>
Technology & Cell Phone Procedure	<p>Effective July 1, 2025, the use, operation, or possession of wireless communications devices including but not limited to cellular telephones, tablet computers, laptop computers, pagers, gaming devices, smart watches, earphones, or headphones in school buildings or on school grounds during the instructional day is prohibited. Violation of board policy with respect to such use, operation, or possession of wireless communication devices may constitute a Class II. Madison City Schools has outlined an electronic/wireless device policy (Policy 6.20) on page 137 of the MCS Policy Manual.</p> <p>Students should bring their MCS chromebooks and chargers to class each day. Teachers utilize GoGuardian to monitor student activity and participation; however, students are responsible for their activity on school-issued devices and using their MCS accounts.</p> <p>LMS is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.</p>
Materials & Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ½' binder • Loose leaf paper • Pencil pouch • Scissors • Colored Pencils/Markers • Highlighters • Pencils/pens • Glue sticks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tab dividers (4 for ELA) <p>Teacher Wish List: these items are NOT required but would be greatly appreciated. Tissues, paper towels, pencils, treasure chest items, copy paper</p> <p>Required Novels: It is required that all honors students have their own copies of novels in Language Arts. I am providing the links for ordering options, but you may also borrow these from another resource. Students will be given ample reminders about having novels on time. Please do not read these novels ahead of time, with the exception of the summer reading novel.</p> <p>Summer Reading Novel: <i>Flipped</i> by Wendlin van Draanen (All students should complete reading this novel by August 5.) Amazon Link <i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens (Need by Thanksgiving break) Amazon Link <i>The Crossover</i> by Kwame Alexander (Need by September) Amazon Link</p> <p>Lit Circle Options (students will choose one of the following books- not all three) -<i>Uglies</i> by Scott Westerfeld Amazon Link -<i>Matched</i> by Allie Condie Amazon Link -<i>The Selection</i> by Kiera Cass Amazon Link -<i>Ender's Game</i> by Orson Scott Card Amazon Link</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.

***This syllabus is subject to change, without notice, at teacher discretion.
Please sign the 2025-2026 Parent & Student Syllabus Acknowledgement Sheet and turn it in to your teacher.***

Cut below this line and return by August 8

2025-2026 Parent & Student Syllabus Acknowledgement Sheet

Complete the form below to indicate your understanding and agreement with the ELA 7 Course Syllabus. This syllabus is subject to change, without notice, at the teacher's discretion. Return this page to your ELA teacher no later than August 8th.

<div> <div></div> <div>Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)</div> </div>	<div> <div></div> <div>Parent/Guardian Signature & Date</div> </div>
<div> <div></div> <div>Student Name (Printed)</div> </div>	<div> <div></div> <div>Student Signature & Date</div> </div>