




Journey Middle School

217 Celtic Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

7th Grade English Language Arts

Mrs. Bess

Teacher Contact Information	Email: albess@madisoncity.k12.al.us Phone: 256-774-4695 Ext. 84236
Classroom Digital Platforms	Go to Schoology to access daily PowerPoints and other important information. Fill out the Distribution List Form to stay up-to-date and receive other important information.
Textbook Information	McGraw-Hill StudySync Reading and Writing Companion - 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 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, and 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 is required.
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	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. Term 3/Third 9 Weeks: Thematic focus: Effective Communication. Argumentative writing; Subject-verb agreement; Dangling & Misplaced Modifiers; Poetic devices; ACAP Test Preparation Term 4/Fourth 9 Weeks: Thematic focus: Identity. Novels in verse; Expository writing; Finals. <i>*This is subject to change.</i>
Classroom Expectations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be respectful. Respect yourselves, each other, visitors, Mrs. Bess, 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.
Progressive Discipline <i>(JMS Policy)</i>	Step 1: Verbal warning Step 2: Student/teacher conference Step 3: Parent contact/conference Step 4: Detention and a parent contact Step 5: Office referral

<p>Grading Policy (MCS Policy)</p>	<p>60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) 40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)</p>
<p>Late Work Policy</p>	<p>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!</p>
<p>Make-up Work/Test Policy</p>	<p>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). Students are responsible for coordinating and scheduling a retake with their teacher.</p>
<p>Technology</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Accommodations</p>	<p>Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.</p>
<p>Turnitin Notice</p>	<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>
<p>Materials & Supplies</p>	<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. It is NOT required that you purchase these, but it is suggested. Please do not read these novels ahead of time, except the summer reading novel.</p> <p><i>Black Brother, Black Brother</i> by Jewell Parker Rhodes</p> <p>Students will read ONE of the following texts for our literature circle unit: <i>The Crossover</i> by Kwame Alexander <i>Before the Ever After</i> by Jaqueline Woodson <i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> by Jaqueline Woodson <i>Inside Out & Back Again</i> by Thanhha Lai</p>
<p>Homework</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Parent & Student Acknowledgement Form</p>	<p>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 QR code or the direct link here: https://forms.gle/B5GrYqK9KumUZJbOA</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>

