



Journey Middle School

217 Celtic Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

7th Grade Honors English Language Arts

Mrs. Bess

Teacher Contact Information

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Classroom Digital Platforms

Go to [Schoology](#) to access daily PowerPoints and other important information.

Textbook Information

McGraw-Hill StudySync Reading and Writing Companion - This text will be used as a supplemental resource.

Course Description

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. 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.

Course Objectives

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.

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. Dystopian novels; Expository writing; Finals.

**This is subject to change.*

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>	<p>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 <i>(MCS Policy)</i>	<p>60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) 40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)</p>
Late Work Policy	<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>
Make-up Work/Test Policy	<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>
Technology	<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>
Accommodations	<p>Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.</p>
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. 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>Flipped</i> by Wendelin van Draanen <i>I am Malala (Young Readers Edition)</i> by Malala Yousafzei <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
Acknowledgement 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 QR code or the direct link here:

<https://forms.gle/B5GrYqK9KumUZJbQA>

