

7th Grade Language Arts Syllabus
2007-2008
Ms. Price



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our Language Arts classroom and share my expectations for the class. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any problems, questions, or concerns. I am always happy to meet with students and parents. I have very high expectations of you and will expect you to do your best at all times. We will be reading at least 2 novels per quarter, some as a whole class and some independently. We will continue to study all parts of speech, new vocabulary words and have extensive practice with expository and creative writing. This year will be challenging, so be prepared to work hard, do your best and have fun!

I request that both students and parents sign and return the bottom cut-off portion of this letter indicating that you have read the procedures and agree to cooperate with them.







Ms. Price
CourtneyPrice@ssas.org

Textbooks







The textbooks that we will use include the following:

-  *Prentice Hall Literature, Bronze Edition*
-  *Prentice Hall Writing and Grammar, Communication in Action, Bronze Edition*

The novels that we will read include the following:

-  *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
-  *The Fighting Ground* by Avi
-  *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick
-  Various novels dealing with a multi-cultural theme
-  *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers
-  Four additional choice novels for each quarter's book reports

Supplies

-  Spiral 3-Subject Notebook w/ perforated edges
 -  Duo-Tang Folder w/pockets
 -  Loose-leaf Notebook Paper
 -  Pens (blue or black ink only)
 -  Colored pencils or markers
 -  Highlighter & Dry Erase Marker
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Grading

Assignments have the following point values:

Tests and Book Reports **20%**

If you are planning on being absent the day a project is due, **YOU MUST HAND IN THE PROJECT A DAY EARLY**. Book reports will not be accepted after Friday of the due date week and those late reports will lose 10 points a day. Any major test must be made up the following Friday (silent reading day) and the student must request it.

Quizzes **10%**

Students must make up all missed quizzes on the following Friday (silent reading day). After one week without taking the quiz, the quiz grade will become a 0%.

Classroom and Participation Skills **30%**

Coming to class on time, bringing required tools to class, completion of homework on time, appropriate dress, attitude and cooperation with teacher and fellow students, staying on task in classroom; Major tests, quizzes, and book reports will be required to be signed by a parent or guardian, these will be sent home on Mondays with the Team News.

Homework **15%**

All homework must be neat, on loose-leaf paper, unless otherwise noted, and in pen. Students have 3 days to make up any missing homework, losing 10% a day, after the third day it is a 0%. Homework is always posted on the board, as well as the team news.

Class Work **20%**

It is imperative that students at times take notes on literary terms, grammar definitions with examples and writing samples. Students will also have periodic exercises and group activities in class. All class work must be in the appropriate section of the spiral 3-subject notebook.

Bell Work **5%**

Each class period will begin with Bell Work, which will be posted clearly on the board. Students must begin Bell Work immediately after writing homework assignments in the Agenda.

If you are absent: You are responsible for any make-up work. You have the same number of days you were absent to make up work. Ex. 2 days absent = 2 days to make up. It is your responsibility to check the assignment calendar and/or ask your table buddy to see what you missed. **All major assignment/projects that are assigned at least 3 weeks in advance MUST BE TURNED IN ON THE DUE DATE EVEN IF YOU ARE ABSENT THAT DAY!!!** If you know you are going to be absent, you must turn the project/assignment in EARLY.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

1. Take care of your business before class (drinks, restrooms). Passes will only be issued for emergency situations.

2. Bring two (working) writing instruments—don't disrupt class to sharpen pencils!
3. Enter classroom quietly and sit in assigned seat.
4. Write homework in Agenda.
5. Begin Bell Work immediately.
6. Wait for further instructions from teacher.
7. If you finish work early:
 - work on another assignment or
 - read a book quietly.
8. Teacher dismisses you at the end of the period, not the bell!

RULES

1. Respect teacher, other students and classroom equipment
2. Follow directions the FIRST time they are given
3. Remain in your seat at all times unless given permission to get up
4. Remain quiet during class unless given permission to speak – voices should always stay at a low volume
5. Bring all books and materials to class
6. Come to class ready to work and with a good attitude

CONSEQUENCES

- First Offense: The Look or Verbal warning
- Second Offense: You owe me a handwritten copy of the classroom rules.
- Third Offense: You owe me a Behavior essay with a parent signature.
- Fourth offense: Morning Detention!
- Fifth offense: County referral.

REWARDS

- ❖ Praise/ Smiles from your teacher!!!
- ❖ Stickers
- ❖ Grammar Game Days
- ❖ Movie Days

Other Expectations/Procedures:

Silent Reading: We will have a silent reading day at least every other week. These days will be announced ahead of time, and students are responsible for coming to class with a book to read on that day. Students may check out books from the classroom library or bring a book of their choice from home. These days are for READING only! There should be no writing, drawing, or talking.

Reading Corner: There is a reading corner in the classroom where students can relax while reading. Students may only use the reading corner with permission from the teacher.

Quieting the class: Students will observe the “Give Me Five” procedure. Teacher will stand in front of the class with hand raised. Students will focus on teacher and follow the 5 steps

1. Eyes on speaker
2. Quiet

3. Be still
4. Hands free (put things down)
5. Listen

Assignments: All assignments and homework will be posted with a due date on the Homework/Assignment Board at the front of the classroom. Students are responsible for checking this board daily and writing assignments in their agenda book.

Bathroom: Students should use the restroom before or after class EXCEPT for emergencies. If a bathroom pass is needed, student must fill out Agenda and bring it to the teacher.

Tardy: Students will be marked tardy if they are not in their seats when the bell rings.

Donations: Donations for the classroom are always welcome! These can include used/new novels (age appropriate), markers, colored pencils, construction paper, Sunday comics, magazines (for creative projects), etc.

Contacting the teacher: I can be contacted at the following email address: CourtneyPrice@ssas.org. I try to answer emails within 24 hours. If you email me on the weekend, please do not be alarmed if you do not hear back from me until Monday.

Paper Heading Example:

	First Name	Last Name	Class Period	Date
⊖				
⊖				
⊖				



I look forward to an exciting year with all of you!

Please fill out the following page and turn it in by August 22, 2007.

✂ -----

I have read Ms. Price's rules and expectations and agree to cooperate with them. I understand that if I choose to break a rule, there will be consequences.

Student Date

I have read Ms. Price's rules and expectations and agree to support them.

Parent Name Date

Parent Signature Phone E-mail